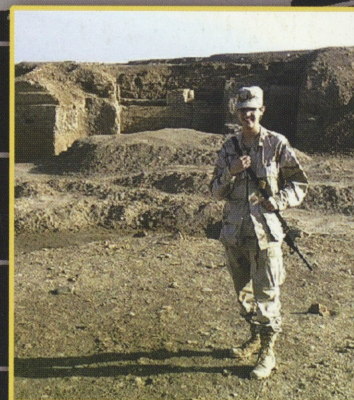
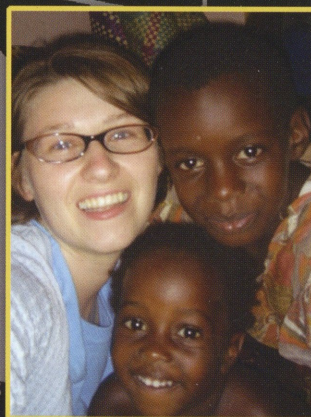
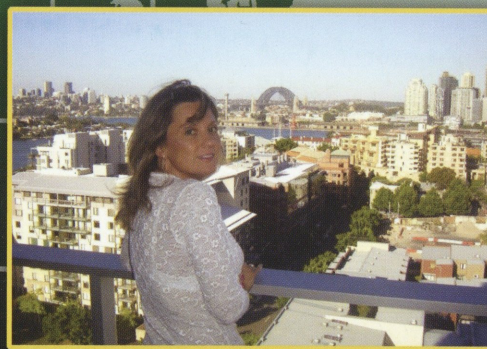
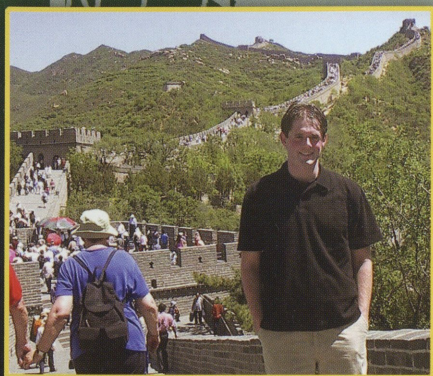


crossroads

Missouri Southern State University



**For
alumni,
no
boundaries**



Fall 2007

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NOTE: Crossroads is written and designed by students/alumni and published three times a year. The views expressed do not represent those of the student body, faculty, staff or administration of Missouri Southern State University.

crossroads

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This third issue of the new version of *Crossroads* magazine features Missouri Southern's international mission. It's hard to believe that it's been 12 years since Missouri Gov. Mel Carnahan signed into law House Bill No. 442, which directed that Missouri Southern "shall develop such academic support programs and public service activities it deems necessary and appropriate to establish international or global education as a distinctive theme of its mission."



Here's a snapshot of what we've accomplished since that historic day in 1995:

- Added new majors in International Business, International Studies, French, and German.
- Added new minors in Japanese, Chinese, and Russian, and courses in Arabic.
- Expanded opportunities and provided grants for more than 2,000 MSSU students to study abroad.
- Signed agreements with 16 international universities for student exchange: 3 in Japan, 2 in China, 2 in Costa Rica, 2 in Sweden, 2 in Germany, 2 in France, 1 in Finland, 1 in Chile, and 1 in Taiwan.
- Joined the International Student Exchange Program (ISEP), in order to exchange students with universities around the world.
- Joined the Missouri London Program consortium along with other universities from the State of Missouri. Students and faculty can spend an entire semester in London.
- Established student teaching opportunities for education majors in Southampton, England.
- Infused the curriculum with 150 new courses that are either international courses or courses with a predominantly international focus.
- Established an International Trade & Quality Center and an International Language Resource Center. Became the headquarters of the International Society of Weekly Newspaper Editors (ISWNE).
- Conceptualized "themed semesters," where the fall semester of every year focuses on a particular country or continent. This fall is the China Semester.
- Established the Gockel International Symposium, which brings world-renowned scholars to campus every year.
- Created the McCaleb Initiative for Peace to examine the causes and prevention of war. At least one Missouri Southern student-faculty team receive up to \$5,000 every year for an in-depth research project that involves traveling to the sites of former wars and conflicts.

The true measure of our success, however, is the international mission's impact on our students and alumni. This issue of *Crossroads* features profiles of eight recent MSSU alumni who are living or have worked in such places as China, Vietnam, Germany, Nicaragua, Uganda, and Iraq. Their stories provide an indication of what can be accomplished when a global education is mixed with dreams and an adventurous spirit.

Chad Stebbins, '82
Director, Institute of International Studies
Missouri Southern State University



WORLD CITIZEN

Peace Corps experience
provides new view of life

By Teresa Smith
Class of 2005

I came to Uganda 15 months ago with the Peace Corps. In the year I've been here I've had to face many changes and challenges. Before I get into those, I must tell you about the challenge it took just to get here.

My first obstacle, believe it or not, was overcoming this fear that I wouldn't make it; I wouldn't even get accepted. I didn't even tell people I had applied until I had my interview (not that I was accepted yet); I just realized it didn't really matter anymore, at least I was trying. The application process alone is a real impediment; it asks for a detailed history of your medical, academic and personal background. Try tackling eight pages (front and back) and an essay on why you want to be a Peace Corps volunteer. After applying, you have an interview, in which you can meet a recruiter in person or interview over the phone. My interview was over the phone and lasted an hour. Once the interrogation process is over, the nomination process comes. I was nominated for Africa and the South Pacific. Several months later, I discovered where I would be spending the next 27 months of my life. The process in

all can take anywhere from six months to two years before one is given an assignment. It took me about a year.

I chose to become a volunteer for a number of reasons. First and foremost, I felt a need to be challenged. I felt so ordinary and needed an awakening. I can honestly say I've been awakened; being in Uganda has helped me to understand my own culture as much as I'm learning to understand and accept this new one. Of course, for the most obvious reason, I wanted to help others. From an early age I knew I wanted to live in Africa and do whatever was necessary for me to help. Here in Uganda, with the Peace Corps, I get the ultimate experience. The first 10 weeks in country we go through training, specifically for health workers, and an intense language instruction. Not only am I living here, but I'm learning to speak the local language and attending traditional ceremonies and events with my neighbors. I eat with them and chat about the world around us. The entire community knows me and rather than hearing *mzungu* (white traveler), I hear my name, and sometimes Teddy or Najuuka (my African name).

My village is about two hours from the capital city, Kampala. My village is fairly deep in the woods, but at the same time, it's unique for its location. The Motherhouse of the Catholic Church was once here, so we have volunteers from all over the world coming in to help set up better water and sanitation programs, sponsor children going to school and even helping our hospital to build an ICU. The ICU alone makes my village distinctive, but the people make it more so. I work directly with the hospital and staff.

To place a volunteer at a specific site, Peace Corps goes through our education, work experience, and the site's requirements and tries to match our skills to their needs. I have a bachelor's degree in International Business, plus I have years of experience working in health facilities back in the states. Therefore, I was placed in a hospital working with a grassroots program focused on home-based care for people living with HIV/AIDS. Basically I am the project's coordinator with help from my supervisor, the hospital administrator.

Since my arrival, we have trained 27 community volunteers who help in carrying out the project's goals. There are 12 surrounding villages, in which the volunteers and I do home visits and teach the community on different topics, such as, AIDS, nutrition, will-making, basic health, etc.

One of my favorite aspects of my work in Africa is doing the home visits. About a month ago, I was introduced to a young boy, Nicholas. Nicholas is 12 years old and HIV positive. Two months before our meeting he stopped walking or sitting up, but his grandmother who now "cares" for him refused to bring him to the hospital for proper treatment. His father abandoned him shortly after his mother's death from AIDS. His grandmother believed he would die regardless and it would be easier to stop feeding him and allow him to die quicker. My community volunteers and I decided it was in his best interests to be treated. He has since started on TB drugs for his spine and our project provides him with food whenever possible. He can now sit up without pain and says the pain in his legs has lessened. Soon he will begin ARVs (Anti-Retroviral drugs) as well. He smiles when he sees me now (a rare thing for

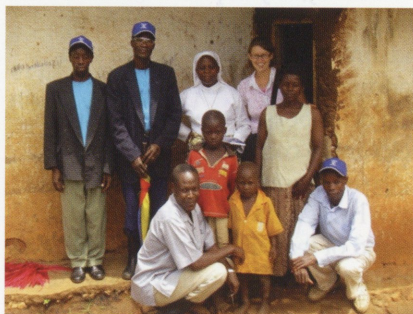


him, as he never smiled before) and he talks very frequently, telling us how happy he is. Recently, my supervisor went to visit his grandmother. She told her that she was wrong and that someday her grandson could walk again; all you need is a little faith. The grandmother now cares for him, with the generous help of his neighbors. I see him as often as I can (usually once a week) and a community volunteer visits him daily. If nothing else ever gets accomplished while I am here, I am happy to have helped this one little boy.

In late May, we began a round of teaching in the schools, starting with primary schools and working our way up to the teacher's college. The children are very curious about their bodies and ask more questions than one can answer about sex. It's taboo for the parents to speak to their children about puberty and sex; it's normally left to the aunts or the uncles to share this information with them.



I've learned my experiences are best when shared with others, in hope of opening others' eyes to the world around them and beyond their own.



Although our main focus is palliative care and education, we also have income-generation projects to help sustain the community (one of the many objectives of Peace Corps). The women's group makes baskets, mats and bags, in which I aim to find a market before the end of my service. The marketplace in Uganda is very limited and therefore we have been looking outside the country.

It's not all about work, however. It's also about getting to know your community and integrating into it. After three months at my site, I started feeling like I was a part of it. The hospital had a medical student, Carol, who stayed for five weeks during the summer (this being the second time she stayed in my village). Somehow, it was left to me to show her around. At the end of her stay, she admitted to me that not only was she amazed, but she also felt a little ashamed. When I asked her why, she explained to me that as a Ugandan she should have been showing me around and introducing me to the community. Instead of her asking someone how they were feeling or how so and so was, it was me! Carol told me she had never met an *mzungu* before who tried so hard to speak the vernacular and wanted to be a part of the community. I guess I never would have truly known how far I had come in such a short time, had it not been for her telling me. I'm sure to this day, I'd still be wondering if I would ever really fit in here.

I am here at a pivotal point in Ugandan history. Discord looms in the northern part of Uganda, but where I live you'd never know there were any problems. The country is small in comparison to other African countries (it's about the size of Oregon), but any conflict feels like another continent away. The people are so friendly, they invite you to eat with them every chance they get; they are more than welcoming and more polite than is necessary. In November of this year, CHOGM will be in Uganda, another exceptional point. CHOGM, the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, is a summit meeting held every two years by a member state chaired by that nation's prime minister or president. Most meetings are attended by Queen Elizabeth II, who is the titular head of the commonwealth.

Uganda is full of rebirth and rebuilding these days, mostly for the Commonwealth later this year, but also as a nation that has faced a rather dark past. The culture and many traditions are now being passed up by an ever-growing Western influence. Some of the changes have to do with increasing technology and the growing number of ex-patriots living in Uganda. We don't realize the impact we have until it's too late. Is this a problem, you might ask? Well, yes. For centuries, Ugandans have lived a particular way, and who are we (Westerners) to say they

should change all of their ways? Life in Uganda is not simple, but do we really make it better? If you were to visit Uganda, you would find it to be rather flourishing (not in the sense of money). Everything seems to grow here and the country has a lot of natural beauty — lakes, mountains and national parks filled with safari animals, not to mention one of the few places in the world you can find gorillas. There are about 35 tribes and even more languages.

I love that I'm living here; if there's one place I'd have liked to live it would be here. No doubt, there are plenty of other places I want to see, but for now, this has been one of the highlights. The Ugandan people are very friendly and welcoming and at times I forget this isn't my home. I've experienced a lot of events in the past year; weddings (introductions), funerals and last funeral rites. I celebrate with them and I mourn with them. I sing their songs and dance their dances. If you were to ask a Ugandan, they would tell you that I am a *Baganda* now (something they're very proud of). As much as I miss my family and friends, I've gained so much in the last 15 months and that includes an even bigger group of family and friends; that alone makes this experience worth it all!

Somehow, perhaps serendipitously, I've found my way to

Africa. The continent seems to have been waiting for me, waiting for me to be devoured by moments of stillness and awe, moments shared with others — living among them and understanding them — becoming a part of their lives and not just looking in from the outside, but living life with a different perspective. Today, I wear my "African goggles" and for the rest of my life they will be there, ready for me to put on again and again — giving me a new approach to life.

I've grown a lot in the past year. As I said before, I needed to not feel ordinary anymore. I needed to feel as if I, personally, had a purpose. I don't know if I have really helped anyone by being here, and maybe I will never know; but that's OK with me. I have seen change and I feel I'm a better person for being here. I see myself as a world citizen, rather than just an American citizen and I like that much better. If nothing else, I know the person I am and the person I want to be. I've learned my experiences are best when shared with others, in hope of opening others' eyes to the world around them and beyond their own.

Perhaps that is my purpose, to dance to a different beat and to join the world in their songs, all the while becoming who I was meant to be and sharing it with others along the way. Every so often, it's better to take the road less traveled...



WOMAN AT WAR



Southern grad reflects on time in Gulf

By Tammy Spicer
Class of 1998

The International Mission of Missouri Southern fits well with the international experiences of my life. As a former active duty Army, Army Reserves, and current Missouri National Guard member, I've had my fair share of international travel.

While on active duty from 1988-1992, I was stationed all over the United States and spent seven months in Saudi Arabia for Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

After joining the Missouri National Guard in 1994, my travels continued. I have visited Alaska, Honduras, Kuwait, Germany, Panama, Costa Rica, and of course, Iraq.

When my unit, the 1221st Transportation Company, was sent to Iraq in June 2003, it was my second war time deployment, but the two experiences were entirely different.

For starters, during Operation Desert Shield and Storm, I was a single gal. How bad can it be to be outnumbered by men 20:1 when you are 19 years old? During my second deployment, I was married, but more importantly I was now a mother to a 5-year-old and a 1-year-old. And of course, the death toll of the Operation Iraqi Freedom continues to rise, taking much of the joy out of the trip.

My unit had about 140 soldiers and when we first arrived in Kuwait, it was the middle of the night. After several hours of processing and traveling, we arrived at our new camp. The sun was just beginning to rise as I looked out the bus window to see...a Subway sandwich shop and a Baskin Robbins. I knew this was going to be different from Operation Desert Storm.

Our living conditions were harsh at first. We had no air conditioning and we lived in large, what we called circus tents, holding 50 people, filling them to the brim.

Soldiers from the 1221st have a unique viewpoint on Iraq. We saw Iraq as we traveled down the highway at 60 miles per hour, with our weapons pointed out the window.

We saw children dressed in an assortment of colorful clothing standing along the roadside, sometimes simply

waving, but more often, begging. They would run after anything you would throw out the window.

But what they specifically called out for was water. Can you imagine? My daughter is now 9 years old and when I give her a glass of water with dinner, she asks, "What else can I have." These children are literally begging for the basic necessities of life. And they are so beautiful.

Our unit received an interesting assignment in August 2003. A detachment of 60 soldiers was sent to live at a new camp near Ad Diwaniyah, Iraq. When they arrived, there was nothing but a fine dust everywhere. We called it moon dust; whenever you took a step, a puff just formed all around you. These soldiers built a camp from nothing and excelled while doing it.

The neat thing about the camp at Ad Diwaniyah is the amount of contact we had with locals. I only visited the camp for a few weeks, but while there, I took several trips to a place called the "water point." This was a small patch of land five miles from our larger camp alongside a small river, which was the home to many water buffalo. We had a small team there to purify water for use in our camp. The "water point" was also my best personal experience in the mixture of cultures.

At the "water point" a few Iraqi families were granted special permission to have small businesses in the perimeter. That meant there was a somewhat safe place where soldiers could interact with Iraqi adults and male children.

I say male children, because while both boys and girls would stand alongside the road waving and begging from us, only the boys were allowed to have closer contact.

At the water point is where I also had the most contact with Iraqi cuisine. You would go to one of the established stands inside the water point perimeter and order a steak or chicken dinner. Then a young boy would run off toward the town and return about 30 minutes later with an entire meal wrapped in newspaper. The different breads, vegetables and flavors were enjoyed by many of our soldiers.



In November 2003, my unit was moved to a camp in Southern Iraq, near Ad Nassariyah. That was where the 507th Maintenance Company's convoy was attacked in the early hours of the initial invasion. Several were killed in battle and Pvt. 1st Class Jessica Lynch and others were taken as POWs. By the time we moved there, it was one of the safest places in Iraq.

I still look back and feel blessed by the move from Kuwait into Iraq. Our living conditions improved immensely at our new home, called Camp Cedar II.

Now, I'm not sure how this will be received, but do you want to know the single most impressive thing about the new camp? There were flush toilets. Not only flush toilets, but flush toilets in an air-conditioned trailer. I won't go into all the details of how wonderful that was.

Living near Nassariyah also provided our soldiers with

the special opportunity to visit the ziggurat and ruins of Ur. It is one of the world's oldest known civilizations and the birthplace of Abraham.

Last year, the St. Louis Museum of Art had an exhibit on the Royal Tombs of Ur. It was an amazing experience to take my family through the exhibit and see items of such fragility and beauty that had been excavated from what is now such a barren landscape.

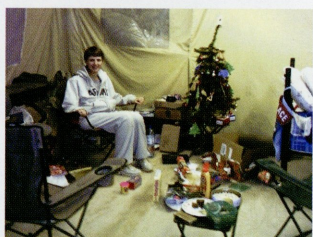
As part of a transportation company, we were in the unique position of visiting various camps all across Iraq. We got to visit the city of Babylon; we saw how our soldiers were living in remote outposts and how our soldiers were living in Saddam Hussein's former palaces.

Visiting Babylon was one of the highlights of my deployment. You can't imagine how humbling it is to stand where King Nebuchadnezzar and the prophet Daniel made

so many decisions. It was interesting because on the walls of the city, you can see very plainly where the original walls ended and where new construction was added. There had been a movement underway to reconstruct the ruins of Babylon before the invasion.

My unit was lucky and blessed, in that we returned to Missouri in July 2004, after traveling more than a million and a half miles over enemy territory, without one enemy-related injury.

As you prepare for the return to the United States, you get a lot of transition briefings, helping you prepare for life in the real world. I remember they told us not to barge back into our old place in the family, because our spouse (well, probably the briefer said "wife") has been doing well without us for more than a year. They also cautioned those of us parents to



My unit was lucky and blessed, in that we returned to Missouri in July 2004, after traveling more than a million and a half miles over enemy territory, without one enemy-related injury.

ease our way back into our children's lives.

I remember getting off the bus at Fort Leonard Wood at 2 a.m. and my husband Brad; Morgan, then 6 years old; and Gavin, then 2 years old; were all standing there. Brad was holding Gavin and immediately held him out to me. But to all of our dismay, Gavin pulled back and clung to his father.

But, of course, I had been through all that training, so I quickly recovered and gave Morgan the biggest hug ever. After about 10 minutes, Gavin walked over and joined the hug. We've never looked back.

I get a lot of questions about what the military is doing in Iraq. Most Americans' knowledge of what is going on in that country is limited to the evening news or the front page of their local paper.

I checked the Department of Defense Web site (www.defenselink.mil) for an update on some of the things the Coalition forces are accomplishing in Iraq.

Did you know the Army Corps of Engineers and more than 30,000 Iraqis completed over 3,000 projects in 2006 at a construction cost of \$7.11 billion?

More Iraqis own cars, air conditioners, cell phones and satellite dishes than ever before. Demand for electricity has doubled since 2003.

Coalition forces' water treatment projects have provided the capacity to serve an additional 2.2 million Iraqis with potable water. At the end of the program, the added capacity could serve approximately 5.2 million Iraqis with potable water.

In 2006, medical care improved in Iraq with the renovation of 15 hospitals. Each completed facility sees approximately 500 patients per day for a total of 11,000 patients nationwide.

In 2006, nearly 25 percent of the Iraqi population either attends a school of, or is directly employed by, the Ministry of Education.

Under the former regime, Baghdad got 24 hours of free electricity daily, while large parts of the rest of the country received none. By the end of 2006, the U.S. Corps Army of Engineers' Gulf Region Division had started 520 electricity-related projects and completed 220 of them. The area outside of Baghdad now averages some 12-14 hours of power per day.

As of December 2006, 80 percent — eight Iraqi Army division headquarters, 31 brigades, and 92 battalions — were "in the lead;" that is, responsible for their own area of operations and subordinate units, and capable of effectively conducting their own counter-insurgency operations.

Maybe the reason we don't hear much about this stuff is because we take it for granted. How many American children don't have access to fresh water or schools? How many Americans don't have enough electricity for their household?

The answer is that we have many luxuries in America that we don't consider luxurious. And I think when people hear that some Iraqis have electricity now, we aren't impressed; we just simply think, well, everyone should have electricity.

But the truth is that the people of Iraq are living in conditions that would leave most Americans in shock. I guess what we need is a reality show set in Iraq in order to highlight the plight of the average Iraqi citizen.

And, while I am very proud of our military and what we are accomplishing in Iraq, I am equally proud of our military families and what they are accomplishing in Missouri. The sacrifices of our families are amazing to me. I know personally what my own family went through.

In Missouri alone, more than 7,000 Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen have been mobilized since September 11, 2001. Right now, we have approximately 700 of these Hometown Heroes serving in Missouri, around the country and across the globe. We must remember not only our service members, but the families who have to fill the void left when a unit deploys.

I am very grateful for so many things in my life, from my experiences at Missouri Southern, to my job and my wonderful family. My deployment experiences are just another chapter of my life story. Of course, I am very excited about my son starting kindergarten this year, because, don't forget, I missed my daughter's entire kindergarten year.

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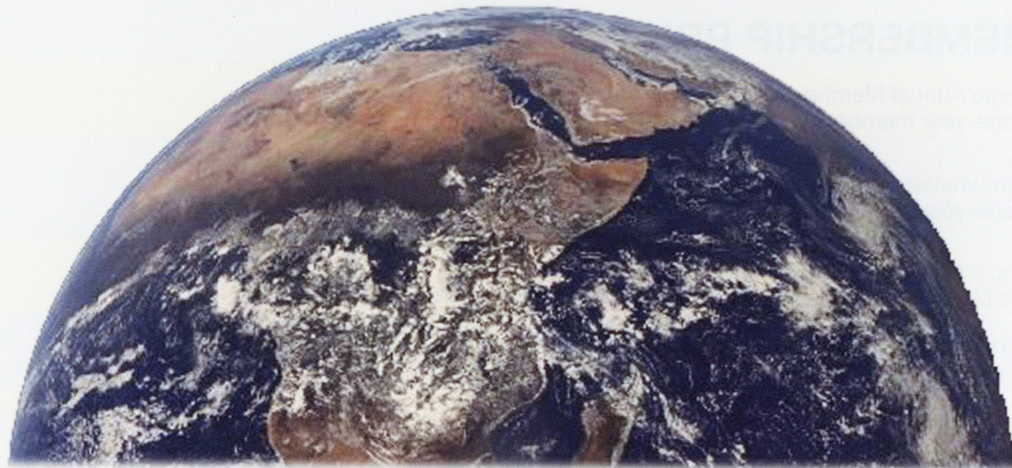
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*"MSSU helped pay for a trip to China
— my first time on an airplane"*



A global experience

International travel is a personal adventure

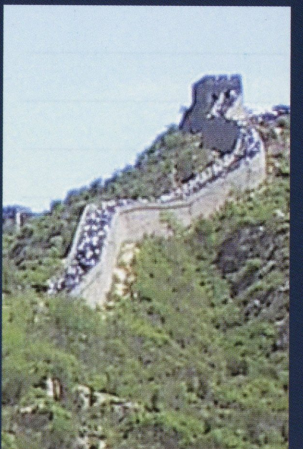
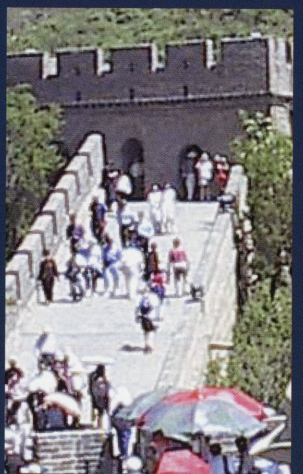
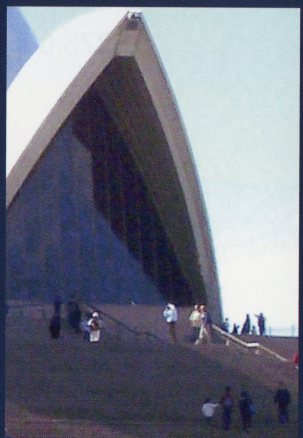
By Aaron Baker
Class of 2004

Aaron currently lives in Kansas City and has worked for The Greenies Company, an affiliate of Mars, Inc., since February 2005. Greenies are the No. 1-selling dog treat in the United States. He is responsible for business development in the Asia-Pacific region and has traveled on five continents in the past year for both work and personal reasons.

Growing up, a city park with a large wooded area was located right behind my parents' house in Nevada, Missouri. My older brother, Ryan, and I would often take expeditions into these woods — although rarely with a purpose. We just went exploring because we wanted to. We would go around thorns and over dead tree trunks, through drainage pipes and across small streams. We would find wildlife and maybe a rusty toolbox or a chewed-up tire, and on one occasion a toilet in good condition.

Returning home before dark, hungry and tired, the satisfaction that we had accomplished something made us feel good. Reflecting on this childhood experience, I think these journeys Ryan and I made are what sparked my interest to travel. In fact, I think this sparked something subconsciously which I would come to understand more clearly in my young adult life — the destination isn't as rewarding as the journey.

Regardless if international travel is for business or private means, the journey impacts your life. During my internship in college, my boss who was a real global traveler invited me over to his house. He had a nice selection of artifacts he had picked up on his journeys. I asked him if he collected anything in particular. In his serious straight-shooting demeanor, he responded, "I collect memories." At the time I thought this was a cheesy reply. Eventually I came to appreciate those words as I became a more well-rounded traveler. Sure, I take the obligatory picture in front of this or that, and purchased wooden shoes in



Amsterdam, but what I always remember and talk about are the characters I met along my path. It is the people you encounter who affect your life and make it more fulfilling.

The unexpected is the catalyst of these memories, a source of seemingly unending supply when you travel. My fondest memories are not seeing the Great Wall, Machu Picchu, or meeting with senior management in Australia, but the circumstances it took to get me there. The best experiences are the ones that get me out of my comfort zone. Here are a few from silly to serious: Singing karaoke with a customer in Japan who is obsessed with Elvis. Getting duped into eating moldy goat cheese by a Frenchman who claimed it was "so smooth." Or how about the time I visited the "beauty clinic" in China where a man set his hand on fire to prove the effectiveness of the ointment he was peddling.

Just this past October my wife and I spent eight hours traveling in a van across the Andes Mountains in Peru. There were no roads; we just had to trust the experience of the guide. During the summer of 2003 I was in China during SARS; in the upscale 300-room hotel I stayed in, I was the

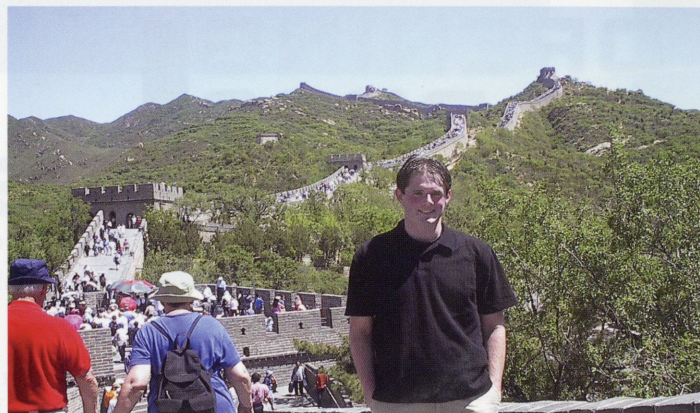


only guest. And, I've done business in countries where security had to check under my taxi to ensure there were no explosives. Often the purpose of travel is to learn about

another culture, a potential customer, or where the best beaches are, but just as likely you will learn about yourself.

In the seven years since graduating high school, I have learned a few things about myself and acquired an appreciation for foreign cultures and ideas. A major reason for this is a result of my time at MSSU, which helped to develop me in three ways. The first was through scholarship on campus. I majored in International Business, minored in Chinese, and took classes outside my discipline focused on other ideologies. I participated in the themed semesters and made friends with international students. This gave me fundamental knowledge of how to interpret a different culture and compare it and analyze it to my own.

The second development was through trips abroad. MSSU helped pay for a trip to China — my first time on an airplane. This study abroad trip was through Georgia Tech and allowed me to focus on the economic reforms taking shape there. While there was an academic component to this trip, the most important learning took place through my solo trips throughout the cities I was in. Here I had to make decisions on how I would respond to the circumstance I was in, sometimes dreadfully uncomfortable. For the first time I was the minority.



The third development was through career development. The following summer I had an internship, again in China, which I obtained indirectly through my advisors at Southern. Along with analytical skills, I had to apply the knowledge from the classroom and the field into work that would be of value. At the end of my four years in college I had been transformed into a person who had a deeper understanding of my character, my passions, and the world around me.

And now, after the completion of an undergraduate education, my adventure continues. Sometimes you hear people say they don't use their education once they enter the workforce. I use mine everyday. I have a position that requires me to rely upon problem solving and critical thinking skills developed in the classroom, and experiences developed during my first trips abroad. While some teachings may not be blatantly obvious in the work, having an understanding of how the world interacts, regardless of the depth, helps me interpret information and actions.

I have to deal with anything from the time it takes to bring a new customer on board, to how prices are negotiated, or how to develop leads in a new market. Even still, I am constantly challenged and molded by the people I encounter. I am creating new memories and having fun doing it.

As stated earlier, international travel is a personal experience for me. It is always an opportunity for discovering new ideas, growing your character, and deepening your understanding of cultures outside your own. I have never met someone who hasn't been moved by their experiences overseas. Even if someone is not interested in pursuing a career directly involved with international affairs, I think it is an integral part of a college education. The purpose of any liberal arts education is to expose students to a variety of ideas. International awareness is a valuable part of this and has an increasing importance in American life.

Without question it has made a major impact on my decisions in life. Isn't it an interesting idea if international travel was a requirement for graduation?

OPENING DOORS CROSSING BORDERS

One MSSU graduate's international mission

By Mary Leyser
Class of 1999

Mary (Batson) Leyser is founder and executive director of the EcoRes Forum (www.eco-res.org), a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to the free exchange of knowledge and ideas concerning society and climate change.

My story isn't too different from yours: I was born in Springfield and grew up on a small farm just east of Carthage. I was raised to follow in the footsteps of my parents and their parents and their parents' parents: staying close to home, making a nice living and focusing on family. But I dreamed of more, and Missouri Southern helped make that a reality. How did it happen? I'll tell you...

In my early years I developed a deep appreciation of nature, which I credit to my countryside upbringing. Childhood activities centered around the outdoors, from planting trees through drifts of mid-winter snow to keeping the road around my home litter-free, from gathering wild asparagus for a special spring treat to learning to identify local flora and fauna. Having many similar experiences, I couldn't help but smile when I recently read Aldo Leopold's passage on tracking wildlife trails through fresh snowdrifts, which brought back fond memories of exciting jaunts and an occasional mishap.

But wait: My story is a *little* different. To begin with, I was home-schooled from the third grade, something quite unusual in the early 80s. After graduation, I went to work in a local business office, and it appeared that my life was following the expected path for a born-and-bred Missourian. As when I was a child, I continued to read constantly, voraciously devouring fact and fiction alike, loving knowledge for its own sake and the vicarious adventures and experiences found in those pages that seemed so far from my own world. I read so much that friends suggested I go to school to get some practical use out of all that "book-learning"; but that seemed a foreign idea, not to mention one far outside my budget.

At the age of 22, by chance (some might say synchronicity) I learned about Missouri Southern's Return to Learn program. About the same time, my supervisor informed the staff that we could take one or two business courses at the company's expense. I jumped at the chance. One clear cool autumn evening in 1995, I visited the MSSC campus for the first time, for my very first college class: Return to Learn, Instructor: Deb Gipson. Little did I know how much this would change my life.

Deb worked hard at cultivating the seed she saw in me. In fact, she did more than that. She talked to then Director of the Honors Program Lanny Ackiss and Assistant Director Pat Kluthe. And she talked to me. And when the Return to Learn class ended, she wrote a letter recommending me to the MSSC Honors Program, a letter that I have still, a personal treasure. To make a long story short, I became the first non-traditional student accepted to the Southern's Honors Program, and even qualified for a full academic Evans Scholarship. My future was looking up — as long as I continued to meet the Evans qualifications!

For the next four years, I continued working full-time while making the most of that scholarship. Convinced



of the value of a liberal arts education, each semester I took more than a full load of classes, dipping into almost every discipline as I pursued my B.A. in political science. Having been involved with community service since childhood, pursuing a career in public service came as second nature.

During my junior year, another fateful dye was cast: Through fellow student Patty Barchak I learned of the Rotoract Club, which led to a life-changing trip to Europe in the spring of 1998 as part of MSSC's international mission. I'll never forget the people who helped make that trip possible: Jim Gray, John Tiede, and Karen Fritchey, especially, as well as the 100-plus friends and colleagues who bought my fundraising pizzas! Our group visited businesses in London, Paris, and Geneva, making connections for future internships. In Paris Polish exchange student Iwona Drozdek joined us on her way back from visiting her parents in Zagan. Iwona and I became fast friends, hitting the European streets as the sun came up and exploring them until long after it had gone down, determined to make the most of our trip. Falling in love with Paris, I left vowing to return "as soon as I speak French." I didn't know how this could happen, but I was determined to make it so — and by then, I had come to realize that life has a way of opening doors when one charts one's path in a particular direction.

With that international inclination growing inside, my last year and a half at Southern took a new direction. I got involved with the International Club, began taking French and German, and started researching job opportunities with international NGOs (non-governmental organizations). At the same time I began working on my Senior Honors Thesis on the role of NGOs with consultative status to the U.N., which involved research at an NGO conference in Seoul, Korea, a trip sponsored by MSSC's Institute of International Studies. More places,

more faces, more experiences: This was starting to become an addiction!

Dating a tall, dark, and handsome German exchange student named Bjoern led to two extended visits to Deutschland, where I was captivated by the castles and the clouds, the brats

I was raised to follow in the footsteps of my parents and their parents' parents: Staying close to home, making a nice living and focusing on family. But I dreamed of more, and Missouri Southern helped make that a reality.

and the brew. As the days until graduation dwindled, my future began to look quite differently than I had ever imagined. In December 1999, I graduated *magna cum laude*. It was hard to say goodbye, but the road ahead was calling. Three days after graduation my Missouri life was packed in cardboard boxes and I, with two suitcases of clothes and a head full of dreams, goals, and hopes, headed east to the Fatherland.

For the next six years, I lived, studied, and worked across Germany, beginning just north of Frankfurt in Giessen. In Autumn 2000 I moved to Fulda, a small Baroque village nestled between the Rhöhn foothills and Vogelsberg, where castle spires sparkled through the morning fog and the sound of cathedral bells was never far away. With 40 students from 32 countries I began a master's program in Intercultural Communication (IC) and European Studies. Given such a broad mix of backgrounds, languages, and cultures, we agreed at the time (and still do) that some of our best educa-

tion was earned across dinner tables as we began to cross the borders in our own minds.

After completing my master's thesis at a research institute in Limerick, Ireland, my time in Fulda was over. Following a memorable graduation ceremony in the hall of one of the city's magnificent monuments, I moved to Heilbronn, just north of Stuttgart, in the beautiful rolling hills of Germany's wine country. There I taught business English and presentation skills to employees at companies like Bosch and Kraft while contemplating whether to enter the Viennese doctoral program to which I had been accepted or to shift focus to the work world.

After passing a summer in the sun, which we hadn't seen much of in Giessen and Fulda, I received a job offer from an international environmental NGO based just south of the harbor city of Hamburg. This was a great chance to combine my interests in nonprofit leadership and environmental issues, and so my decision was made: I headed north. My role with the EEIU was international coordinator, in which position I developed our global operations, working on a daily basis with colleagues in over 80 countries. After a few months, I was appointed additionally as managing editor of the organization's scientific journal, which provided an insider's view on the world of academic publishing. In these positions, I had extensive opportunities to put my IC skills to good use, and I learned much that has continued to shape my interests and focus.

In 2004 Bjoern and I, then newlyweds, began looking at opportunities outside of Germany, but couldn't decide between elsewhere in the EU or the USA. An irresistible job offer in New York made that decision for us, and we (Text continued on page 32)

Balancing the scales:

Career, interests run parallel to MSSU's international mission

By Susan Frisbie
Class of 1998

Ten years ago as a sophomore at Missouri Southern, I wrote my first article for the campus newspaper *The Chart*. When I graduated in December 1998 with a degree in Mass Communications, Southern was just embarking on its now well-recognized international mission. As fate would have it, my byline returns to MSSU's print pages at a time when I find my professional career and personal interests running parallel to Southern's mission of fostering a greater understanding of world affairs and international issues.

Since graduating from Missouri Southern, I have spent the bulk of my professional career working for not-for-profit organizations in a communications and fundraising capacity. As the communications manager for the International Visitors Center of Chicago (IVCC), an organization which provides professional exchange opportunities for State Department-sponsored visitors and their Chicago counterparts, my interest in international issues which was first sparked at MSSU grew. While I had found a job that piqued my interest in international affairs, I also found myself craving the opportunity to see some of the places I had learned so much about.

In 2003, I packed my bags and my life as I had known it changed forever when I moved to Guadalajara, Mexico. In Guadalajara, I taught English, learned Spanish,

and fell in love with everything Latin American: the culture, lifestyle, history, geography, and the people. I knew that my career from that point forward would be focused on improving the living conditions of those in economically developing countries in Latin America.

As I write I am sitting near the back of an airplane headed to Nicaragua, a country most Americans remember as one divided by the 1980s "Contra" War. Though Nicaraguans no longer find themselves divided by the political war of the 1980s, they are united in battle against poverty. Nicaragua is the second poorest country in the Western Hemisphere with nearly 80 percent of the population living on less than \$2 per day.

From credit cards to drive-through ATM machines to online banking, most North Americans have come to take for granted the relative ease with which their financial needs are serviced. However, over three billion people, over half of the world's population, are excluded from the most basic of financial services.

This exclusion compounds poverty in the Global South. In a country like Nicaragua where nearly 60 percent of the population is self-employed, the lack of credit available to the poor to grow and expand their businesses leaves them in the hands of informal lenders or loan sharks. Approximately 90 percent of the Nicaraguan population has no access to financial services from commercial banks. However, despite its poverty, the





beauty of Nicaragua is reflected in the courage and dignity with which Nicaraguans struggle to live their lives.

The Wisconsin Coordinating Council on Nicaragua (WCCN), the non-profit organization where I now serve as the development and marketing director, is committed to building equitable relationships between those in the Global North and Nicaragua. Through its principal project, the Nicaraguan Credit Alternatives Fund (NICA Fund), it provides a vehicle through which socially responsible investors in the North can invest in poverty alleviation and social change via microcredit, or small loans to micro-entrepreneurs and rural producers.

The NICA Fund operates by channeling funds from socially-responsible North American investors to Nicaraguan non-governmental organizations (partner agencies) that specialize in providing credit to marginalized sectors or the Nicaraguan populace. Today the NICA Fund is proud to have over 350 investors that share its commitment to social and economic justice, which has allowed the Fund to grow to over \$7.5 million.

Fundamental to the NICA Fund and its investors is the belief that poor Nicaraguans deserve the opportunity to equitably participate in their own economic decision-making through community-based economic development. Loans to farmers, cooperatives, and small businesses benefit whole communities as funds revolve at a local level. A farmer, cooperative or small business that receives a loan buys goods and services and employs other people, furthering the community benefits of a microcredit loan.

In the over 15 years WCCN has worked in microcredit, it has never had a default on a loan provided to a Nicaraguan partner agency. This dispels the myth that the poor are credit risks and therefore uncreditworthy. In fact, over 95 percent of microcredit borrowers pay back their loans in full and on time.

Microcredit as a model of poverty alleviation recently received worldwide recognition as Muhammad Yunus, a Bangladeshi economist and microcredit pioneer, was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. The decision of the Nobel Committee to award Dr. Yunus with the Prize drew much needed attention to the interconnection of peace and poverty.

Looking back over my university career both at Missouri Southern and at the University of Sheffield (England), where in 2005 I earned my master's degree in International Studies, I appreciate how much both institutions prepared me with the theoretical knowledge and practical skills I needed to ultimately lead me to where I am today. As I finish this article from my hotel room, I am also keenly aware that in a country such as Nicaragua, quality education and living-wage jobs are not the reality that most North Americans enjoy. I commend Missouri Southern on its mission to help improve understanding of world affairs, particularly global economics. It is only through education and firsthand experience that greater understanding can be built, and economic prosperity will be able to transcend borders.

After graduating in 2005, Caleb McMahon left Missouri Southern with a degree in International Business and an opportunity to work and travel abroad.

the **WORLD** *awaits*



*Despite many adversities, working
and living in China worth it*

By Caleb McMahon

Class of 2005

My first foray into international travel was to the exotic and foreign land of Cancun, Mexico, when I was a sophomore.

As I progressed into my major I met Professor Moos. He approached me about a trip that Southern was sponsoring to the Czech Republic and Poland. I signed up eagerly, and after the planned trip was over, took the opportunity to stay behind and explore Europe for a few weeks.

*“The maintenance of relationships with key individuals
(especially if those individuals are a part of the government) is a key
aspect of Chinese business.”*

I came back from Europe in 2005 and accepted a marketing job at J.B. Hunt Logistics in Lowell, Arkansas. It became obvious within the first six months of my tenure that I had caught the international itch. I began browsing into international job listings from time to time and with a little assistance from Professor Moos, I was offered a job. The opportunity constituted a marketing position for a British architectural and engineering consultancy firm in Shanghai, China. I received an offer letter and within two weeks of formalizing the contract I was on a direct flight from O'Hara International Airport to Pudong International, Shanghai.

The initial setback in China was, of course, the culture shock. Even though I was very aware that they would be selling live chickens and ducks on the streets and butchering meat in alleyways, it is one thing to prepare yourself mentally and another to actually step over the chickens and smell the meat. One of the most startling shocks for me was the astounding discovery that American Chinese food strongly deviates from its origins. The food certainly presented a sizable obstacle to overcome.

Shanghai itself is a very international city with all the amenities of home and more. You are offered every service imaginable from food delivery, laundry services, maids, to anything you can imagine for a fraction of the price we are accustomed to. The one thing that gets costly is living a western lifestyle, which mostly entails eating at foreign restaurants and nightlife.

I will begin the business discussion with a brief description of my firm's scope of services. Sino Infrastructure Partnership (SIP) is an architectural and engineering consultancy firm. Our services entail helping companies set up their business in China with land negotiations, business licenses, statutory approvals, etc. Once the initial approvals are in place we move into project definition, which is exactly as it sounds,

the detailed definition of the facility these companies would like to build in China. At this point we deliver the project definition to design institutes who will render detailed blueprints of the facility to be built. We then send these detailed drawing to contractors and manage the bidding process. Once all is settled and the contractor is in place, we provide engineers and project managers to occupy the construction site to guarantee that projects are finished on schedule, within budget, and at optimal quality.

When doing business in China, there are certain local peculiarities which apply to all facets of business. One of the most obvious differences I initially noticed is the overwhelming importance of “Face” or respect. It is a very essential concept in Chinese culture and business. A basic example is the process of business card exchange. There is a whole etiquette related to this in China. When offering your business card you extend it to the counter party with both hands and bow slightly. This signifies the exchange of respect between the individuals. The person receiving the card will then take a few minutes observing it, and once he is through, will then place it in front of him for the remainder of the meeting. If one puts the card into his wallet or folder it is considered disrespectful.

Another important concept in Chinese culture is *guanxi*. *Gaunxi* literally means relationships. This is, of course, a common phenomenon across the world. We have all heard the common saying “it's not what you know but who you know.” The Chinese seem to take this to another level. The maintenance of relationships with key individuals (especially if those individuals are a part of the government) is a key aspect of Chinese business.

I have even heard stories of successful business ventures that came as a result of simply having the right person's business card in your wallet.



"In order to conduct business in China there is a list of regulations you must meet and statutory approvals you must go through."



Unique aspects of business in China: land, licenses, and contracts

Purchasing land, attaining licenses, and finalizing contracts are some of the more unique aspects of operating in China. Even though certain elements of the process resemble business practices around the world, the fundamental principle here is different. This is primarily due to the Communist system in place.

As everyone knows, the land in China is the property of the government. The government, consequently, in the pursuit of business stimulation, has donated portions of it to industrial zones. Certain aspects of this system are equivalent to the American zoning laws. It keeps industrial plants in governmentally designated areas. This means that when a company wants to acquire land for a facility or office, it has to deal with the government. It should be pointed out that this is not always the case, however. In the occurrence of leases, the respected company comes into contact only with the leaser, who in turn conducts all negotiations with the government.

In the case of land purchases, companies attend meetings with government officials regarding regulations and other specific aspects of operations within the chosen industrial zone. Each zone has its own board or group equivalent to arms of local government. In these meetings the board will ask various questions ranging from pollution issues to yearly income to be generated. If the company is willing to pay the asking price for the land and the board approves all the aspects of its business, the deal is concluded without further problems. Of course, the government makes exceptions for certain businesses.

In the case of large behemoths, industrial zones actually enter into competition and market entrance becomes

much easier for the foreign companies. On a small scale this might come in the form of cheaper utility prices, tax breaks, or reduction in land cost. On a large scale, such as IBM moving into Dalian, it can go as far as donations of land worth millions of dollars and some other government subsidizations. All elements of land acquisition are a vital part of operating in China given that the primary requirement for a business license is proof of address.

In order to conduct business in China there is a list of regulations you must meet and statutory approvals you must go through. Here is something that will sound familiar to us Americans: there are numerous bureaus and committees you must go through to receive approval for the opening of a facility and initiation of day-to-day operations. These must be handled with care because if a mistake is made during the fifth stage of approvals when you get to the 30th stage, you might have to back track and fix the initial mistake. As you can imagine, this can be time consuming and frustrating. The most important of these approvals I would say would be the environmental impact assessment (proving that the land is sound and safe to build on), business license, planning license for construction project, construction license, construction completion acceptance check by QCS (government approving procurement schedules and program), and the occupancy certificate.

In the midst of all this you will undoubtedly be dealing with one of the most prominent portions of business, contracts. This used to be problematic in earlier stages, but I believe it has been simplified with the application of international or FIDIC (Fédération Internationale des Ingénieurs Conseils) contracts. These contracts particularly protect international firms by ensuring that any problems or discrepancies that may arise will be handled according to international standards (in most cases) and not merely the laws of the host country.

“Due to the dramatic language differences and variations within China itself, communication can become extremely difficult.”

Particular challenges in China

My initial and most prominent challenge in China was actually quite generic, namely that of the language barrier. It is not unusual for a simple task to take three to four times as long due simply to the fact that the communication is not there. If I ask my co-workers for a certain document, it is common to see three or four wrong documents before I see the correct one. This is all gets better with time. Either I learn to say it in a way they understand it or vice versa.

Due to the dramatic language differences and variations within Chinese itself, communication can become extremely difficult. Business is conducted in Mandarin, but even if you speak Mandarin, there might be different vocabulary and use of words indigenous to certain regions of China. A good example is the word *xiao jie*, which means Miss, as in “Excuse me, Miss.” It is common in Shanghai to refer to a waitress as *xiao jie*, just as it is common to refer to a waitress as Miss in the States. Nevertheless, if you refer to a woman as *xiao jie* in the west of China, the meaning is correlated with that of a prostitute.

Another challenge is the government. I made reference to this when speaking of the land dealings, but it permeates through every aspect of business. All companies are closely watched by the government; this is if they didn't already have part ownership, which is common for Chinese companies. The government is involved in all aspects of business including land negotiations, licensing, operations, import/export, etc.

My specific knowledge is from a business development standpoint, since this is the field I work in. Since the government controls the land, it has firsthand knowledge of initial entrants into China or their particular zone. This

is valuable marketing information. It is common for individuals in the zones to relay this information if the right “gifts” are received and they are taken care of properly. Of course my company as well as other foreign firms takes a strong ethical stand against this type of behavior because the Chinese haven't been wise enough to give these agencies official names or label them as committees or create job labels for the individuals who offer gifts on the behalf of corporations, like say lobbyist. In essence the foreigners take a stand against Chinese corruption, because the corruption isn't as transparent as our own.

In closing, there are many adversities to overcome in China, but the overall effort is well worth it. Many analysts have projected that China will be the world's next superpower within the next half century. This will depend on whether this nation can cope with the rapid economic and monetary growth. Only time will tell, but so far China has handled every aspect exceptionally. They have used their newfound wealth to strengthen infrastructure and promote free trade among many other issues. Thus far, this country is in the process of operating like a well-oiled machine and personally I see only good things in China's future.





Open mind, acceptance keys to understanding diverse world



By Allison Rosewicz
Class of 2004

Forget terrorism. Brush global warming aside. The following worldly dilemma may not have much weight as a cause for concern, but I promise it's more entertaining...

Your boat is broken down in the middle of the Mekong, the midday sun beating down, burning your backside. After uncountable attempts at restarting the motor, your pilot also fails at moving the boat — along with himself, yourself, and five other passengers — to safety with a poor little broken paddle.

What would you do?

This very scenario happened to me only a couple of weeks ago, while vacationing in Laos. I was returning from a trip down the Mekong to see rare Irawaddy (freshwater) dolphins and the largest waterfall in Southeast Asia. On the last leg of the return trip to my bungalow on Don Det, one of the only

three inhabited islands of the of the Si Phan Don (4,000 islands) where the Mekong divides Laos, Cambodia, and Thailand, the boat breakdown ironically occurred.

Suddenly, the boat stalled. Why was the pilot (coincidentally, also my cabin owner) trying to start the motor again and again? "Ha, ha!" laughed the fearless captain. "No petrol!" We were stranded.

Now, be honest in considering the question I posed earlier. Most people would admittedly be quite irritated by this situation. Just a few years ago, I probably would have reacted in such a way.

So why did six passengers from across the globe — New Zealand, Germany, the USA, and South Africa — actually enjoy the described conundrum? Because as a traveler, you grow to appreciate that this is simply the way of the world.

Perhaps the greatest lesson of my life has been learning this, that the world can't be perceived from just a personal viewpoint. An open mind, simultaneously filled with acceptance, must be applied to this diverse planet of ours. I've been lucky enough to travel across the globe to come to this conclusion.

As a kid, my family didn't have the monetary means to travel, so I can't say my status as a wanderer of the world was rooted in childhood. But I have no shame in saying that I grew up eating dinner in front of the TV — watching the nightly news, that is. In fact, I had a pretty big crush on Tom Brokaw. Perhaps this is when and where my interest in the world began.

I didn't get the opportunity to really travel, however, until I was more than midway through college. I consider myself fortunate, though, in experiencing a full-on realization of the differences in the world during my initial journey. My first international flight, my first trip away from North America, my first true eye-opener all happened during a summer in India.

For two months in the summer of 2002, I studied and traveled across India. It was and still is my favorite of the nearly 20 countries to which I've been. Maybe because it was such a wonderfully shocking first experience; maybe because India is an indescribable dichotomy of harshness and beauty; undoubtedly a combination of the two.

In my final year of university, I traveled quite a bit more, mostly in European countries such as Austria, Hungary, and France. These visits proved polar opposites of India but were huge learning experiences nonetheless.

After college graduation, I had a frustrating, disheartening,

and failed attempt at joining the Peace Corps. I couldn't bear living in southwest Missouri, working a near minimum wage job, trying to figure out what to do with my life any longer. So I took my quickest way out and got a job teaching English in Seoul, South Korea.

Initially, Seoul was very exciting. A moneymaking, technological Asian city full of tall buildings and neon lights was something I'd never seen before. But after a couple of months, my job and my difficulties with some aspects of the culture began to wear on me. My friends and I found ourselves counting down the days until our contracts ended and we could go home.

In retrospect, however, I regret nothing of my time there. I became a stronger and more stable person — in short, I think I "grew up." I visited countries like China, Japan, Thailand, and Vietnam. But most of all, I developed something I never dreamed of doing — a true love for home. For as long as I could remember, I had resented where I'd lived most of my life. But I came to miss it, pine for it, and then relished



it when I visited home for a couple of months after spending a year in Korea.

I also owe my current situation to my time spent there. During my final vacation in Korea, I visited Vietnam and fell in love with it. While I was home, I found a job in Ho Chi Minh City teaching at an international school. Two weeks after applying, a quick visa processing, and a flight ticket purchase later, I found myself living and working in the former Saigon.

I've been in Ho Chi Minh City for more than seven months now, and I recently signed another contract to stay here until next August. I've definitely come full circle in my feelings about this culture and what I'm doing in it.

Of course Vietnam lost its initial varnished shine of vacation. Living and working in a place inevitably causes this. I went through a period when all I felt was stress about the disorganization and lackadaisical attitude of running a workplace, especially a school. I come from a well-ordered, structured culture. It's also hard being a strong Western woman in a nation where it sometimes seems women are almost subservient. And I constantly questioned the job I was working and the life I was leading. Is teaching English a sellout occupation? Was I only trying to escape a lifestyle I couldn't handle at home?

But now I'm sick of stressing, overwhelmed by over-analyzing. After many discussions with Vietnamese friends about cultural differences, I'm (Text continued on page 34)

DENAY'S ROAD



from Missouri Southern to the world

By Denay (Phipps) Longman
Class of 1995

When I was a little girl in school, I remember studying geography — Europe specifically. I knew about Europe because my grandparents immigrated to America from Yugoslavia. I always thought that Europe was a huge place that was so far away and I would never travel there because I lived in a small town in Missouri and I was quite happy to stay right there. But then I grew up and got a job with a local food processing plant while I was still a senior in high school.

After working there for three years, I decided I needed to go to college to be able to advance in the company. The closest college was in Joplin — Missouri Southern State College. I would still be able to work and take night classes to receive an accounting degree. I had always enjoyed school and I loved accounting. My first accounting class was

Accounting I with Mr. Larry Goode. I always thought his name fit him perfectly because he was a GOOD accounting teacher — always explaining things where they made sense. And so my education at Missouri Southern had started!

Taking night classes is not the fastest way to get your accounting degree, but the availability of classes that I needed to meet my requirements — both core requirements and for my major — just seemed to be the ones that I needed at the time. I was also gaining practical experience with my job, as I was working in the accounting department. Working with accounting and learning accounting made things click together for me. I felt lucky that I could understand the “real” world and not just the “textbook” world. The company that I worked for had manufacturing locations all across American and I began to travel to all of these locations — Noblesville, Indiana; New Rochelle, New York; Motley, Minnesota; El Paso, Texas; and Riverside, California. Traveling to these locations was a great experience. Not

only was I getting to see different parts of America, but I was able to meet and work with the nicest people too!

The day finally came that I had finished all of the requirements for a bachelor's degree in accounting. That little piece of paper means a lot in the business world. You can have experience, but you also need to have the education. That's what Missouri Southern provided for me, a place to receive a good education while being able to keep working.

But I began to want more from my job, so I saw an ad in *The Joplin Globe* for a corporate cost accountant at Leggett & Platt. I knew Leggett & Platt was a big company and I thought I would go for this new position. I waited and waited and finally I had a phone call for an interview. I was interviewed by four different people that day when I went to the corporate office. The job sounded great, with lots of opportunity. I just had one requirement; I didn't want to relocate anywhere. Again, I waited and waited — to hear if I got the job or not. Then another phone call came and they did offer me a position, but it wasn't the costing position. It was for an accounting manager position in the accounting department. Wow! Even better!

Starting out, I was given a group of manufacturing branches that I worked with to report the monthly financial results. One of the branches that I worked with was located in Toronto, Canada. Suddenly my accounting class with Mrs. Cunningham was going to be utilized! Accounting for foreign currency gains and losses. I was also learning how to gather information to produce monthly, quarterly and year-to-date financial reports for management. While I had always known about Leggett & Platt, until I started working there, I didn't realize just what a large company it was. It had operations all over the world. I began to learn more about the international locations by working with the accounting group that handled these branches. My first international trip was to Canada. This was when you could travel to U.S.-bordered countries with a copy of your birth certificate and a photo ID. After about a year in the accounting department, a position opened up in the operations department working

with a new, growing segment of the business. Another opportunity! And with this opportunity, more trips to Canada were required. Time for an official passport. I was still working with domestic locations as well, and spent a lot of time traveling to Ocala, Florida and Ft. Worth, Texas. All the while, Leggett was continuing to expand into more international locations.

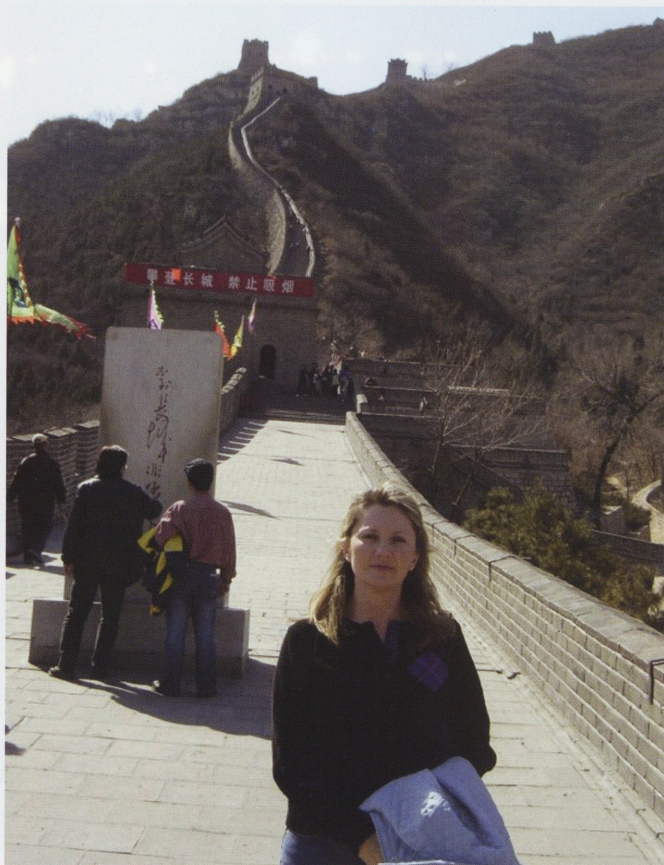
And then another opportunity arose — to be controller of the machinery and technology group. This group had more international locations than domestic locations. This new position would give me the opportunity to work with Tom Wells. Tom had worked for Leggett & Platt for years and had been involved in much of the international growth that the company had been achieving. Little did I know that this position would take me all the way to Europe — all the way to where my grandparents came from. Some of the international cities that I have traveled to were Zurich, Athens, Zagreb, Paris, Auckland, London, Beijing, Milan and Sydney.

Missouri Southern was just beginning its International Business classes when I attended classes. One of the things I remember about my international business class was the focus on the culture of the people of other countries. This is a fact that other countries have different ways of living — whether it's their work ethic, religion or how they celebrate holidays. What I have learned is that all of these people are just ordinary people. I consider myself an ordinary person who has been given some extraordinary opportunities.

Earning an accounting degree from Missouri Southern State University has helped me to achieve many career opportunities. And Leggett & Platt, being so close in

proximity to MSSU, has a world of opportunities for other MSSU graduates. You never know where your road in life will take you. I was lucky enough for my road to take me to where my grandparents came from and I was lucky enough for my road to lead me to cross paths with my husband who is from Sydney, Australia.

Denay (Phipps) Longman serves on the MSSU Alumni Association board of directors.



I was lucky enough for my road to take me to where my grandparents came from and I was lucky enough for my road to lead me to cross paths with my husband who is from Sydney, Australia.

Transportation and Logistics Minor

At Missouri Southern State University



Industry Partnerships

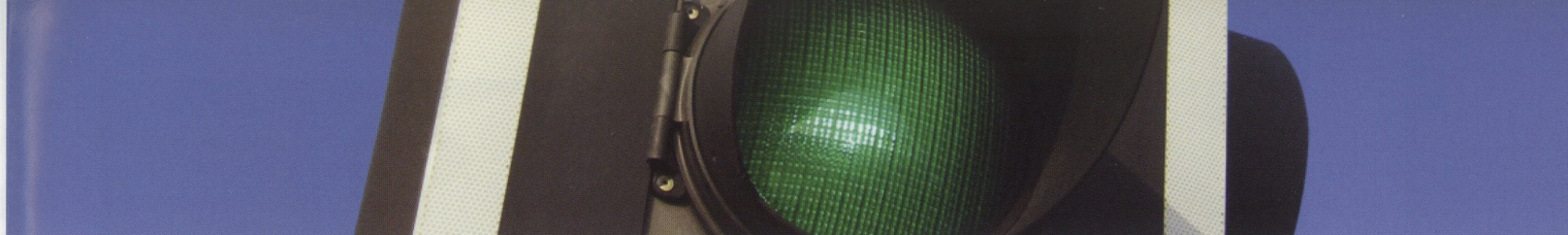
CFI

Sitton
MOTOR LINES, INC.
JOPLIN, MO

TDC

TAMKO
ROOFING PRODUCTS

R & R
Trucking, Incorporated



One of Missouri Southern State University's most promising programs is escaping its modest beginnings and looking to bigger and better things.

The Transportation-Logistics minor began with just two students in 2005, but Dr. Suzanna Long looks to build something more. Long, assistant professor of marketing, envisions the program as an undergraduate major and possibly a graduate program.

"That has always been the goal," she said. "The first step was to get the minor in place. I am one of those that feels if I can get it done yesterday, then why am I waiting? So it is hard for me to throttle down and do this in academic time.

"We have set a tentative goal of another two years. Now, it may be 2-4 years, being realistic. But we have had enough interest at this point that we think it is important to explore the idea of having it turn into a major.

"We've talked about as we start exploring graduate programs, this is one that might make a lot of sense. Transportation-Logistics is really an upcoming field."

The minor in Transportation — Logistics is designed to prepare students for careers in carrier management and logistics management. Carrier management is the management of the domestic and international modes of transportation. Logistics management applies analytical techniques and uses the system approach in managing the flow of materials through the production and manufacturing processes of a firm to its customers.

Basic employment opportunities exist in marketing, sales and operations positions with carriers in all transportation modes, and in positions with shippers having responsibility in logistics management, warehousing, packaging, and materials handling. Opportunities also exist in governmental agencies.

But early on, there weren't many students that wanted to take the plunge.

"We had to beg them," Long said. "At that point (Foundation Director of Major Gifts and Planned Giving) John Tiede said 'I'll tell you what, let me put the word out that I will offer a scholarship.' And we had two students brave enough to take on a brand-new professor and a brand-new course offered for the very first time by enrolling in the logistics course and we have grown from there.

"Now our enrollment tends to run around 20 (students) in all the sections. There are some a little lower, some a little higher, but we have not had to beg the students to take the courses ever since."

Students haven't been the only supporters of the program. Local companies have stepped up with sponsorship and provided natural employment opportunities for the program's students and graduates.

Industry partners include: CFI, R & R Trucking, Sitton Motor Lines, TDC Joplin and TAMKO Building Products, Inc.

"They have all been fantastic," Long said. "With as busy as their schedules are they all took the time out and visited with me and we had a really good conversation. That is really flattering to have that level of interest.

"Whenever they thought about who were some of the biggest employers and how many trucking companies actually had their headquarters in Joplin, Mo., they realized there was a niche here. And many of (the company executives) are Missouri Southern alumni and think very fondly of their time here on this campus and have always been wonderful supporters, even before this program. They have always been very generous with their time and their resources."

Long says the program sponsors help Southern, and the University serves them in return.

"We began to think about what can we do to serve that constituency," she said. "How can we help those stakeholders to have better employees?"

Long said the number of companies that can benefit from program graduates is greater here for logical reasons: geography and facilities.

"We have a regional airport; we have rail traffic that flows through here," she said. "No pipeline centers immediately placed, but certainly within 100 miles.

"We don't have navigable riverways, so we don't have any ports. But with inter-modal transport, then many products will be shipped in on an ocean-going vehicle will be put on the back of a truck or on a train or something of that type and a lot of those products are flowing through that I-44 corridor."

Designed to address the challenges facing the global company, the minor addresses core competencies identified by industry leaders.

The minor in Transportation-Logistics is available fully online.





Blunt signs Senate Bill 389 here

Health Sciences building one step closer to reality

Missouri Gov. Matt Blunt, local legislators, Missouri Southern State University President Dr. Julio León, and other dignitaries participated in the signing of an historic education bill May 25 in front of an audience of more than 200 at Missouri Southern State University.

Blunt said the audience was the largest he had seen during his tour of other universities for the official signing of the legislation — Senate Bill 389.

León pointed out that Missouri Southern students will benefit greatly by the increased grants that will result.

"Currently MSSU students qualify for about \$180,000 in grants from the state, but the new Access Missouri program will mean nearly 900 students will qualify for about \$1.8 million in grants," he said.

Many have called the legislation, sponsored by Sen. Gary Nodler (R-Joplin), the most significant higher education legislation in Missouri in years.

The plan increases funding for student scholarships, introduces accountability measures, provides tuition stabilization and includes the

Lewis and Clark Discovery Initiative, which would provide \$335 million for new state-of-the-art learning centers for Missouri students.

"This historic higher education package holds a number of significant benefits for the Missouri Southern community, and with the construction of a new health sciences building will ensure that students majoring in health sciences will receive a first class education," Blunt said. "This legislation will put higher education in reach for more Missouri students and families than ever before. Significant improvements such as increased funding for Missouri's colleges and universities, tuition stabilization measures and added scholarships will open the door to higher education for thousands of students and families in Joplin and across the state."

Blunt signed the bill while visiting with students and educators at Missouri Southern. The governor's higher education package:

- Includes \$18.9 million for health sciences building

- Increases the number of students receiving scholarships from Access Missouri from 98 to an estimated 889 students
- Increases the Missouri Southern State University operating budget by 8.8 percent

"I believe this is one of, if not the most important higher education bill in our state's history," Nodler said. "The Lewis and Clark Discovery Initiative, combined with the new Access Missouri Scholarship program and increased funding for both higher education and scholarships will not only turn higher education around in our state, but will also revolutionize our higher education institutions and the opportunities available to our students."

The legislation creates the Access Missouri Scholarship that more than doubles funding for needs based scholarships, increasing

the funding available statewide from \$27.5 million to \$72.5 million and making them more available to thousands of Missouri families.

The legislation also enacts the governor's landmark Lewis & Clark Discovery Initiative.

The governor's Lewis & Clark Discovery Initiative is a partnership between the Missouri Higher Education Loan Authority (MOHELA) and the state that sells loans held by students in other states generating \$335 million to strengthen Missouri's colleges and universities. The initiative will provide much needed funding for state-of-the-art learning and research centers to prepare students to compete in today's global economy where higher quality learning in areas such as math and science are crucial elements for students' future success.

"I applaud the General Assembly for sending me this bill that takes an enormous stride forward for higher education in our state," Blunt said.

School of Education earns honor

Southern recognized as one of top 100 in nation in diversity

Missouri Southern's School of Education has distinguished itself as one of the 100 top schools in the nation for diversity — according to a nationally-known academic journal.

Editors of *Diverse: Issues in Higher Education* have informed Dr. Glenn Coltharp, Dean of the School of Education, that MSSU is included in the magazine's unique "Top 100 Degree Producers" list.

Missouri Southern takes its place on the "Top 100" list due to the number of baccalaureate degrees conferred upon Native Americans. MSSU's degrees conferred in 2005-2006 to Native Americans equaled or exceeded many other colleges and universities in the nation, several much larger than MSSU.

Missouri Southern's matched or surpassed the numbers for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, California State-Sacramento, University of Oregon, Indiana University and University of Arkansas-Ft. Smith, as well as a large number of other institutions of higher education.

Diverse allows schools in America to introduce themselves to the 200,000 + strong higher education community as well as thousands of readers outside the industry. The Top 100 editions are one-of-a kind comparisons of America's colleges and universities and are quickly becoming "must reads" in the higher education community.

This year's report includes degrees that have been conferred during the 2005-2006 academic year and reported to the U.S. Department of Education's National Center through Education Statistics (NCES) through the Completions Survey of the Integrated Post-secondary Education Data Set (IPEDS).

Lists included are determined by students' self reported responses regarding racial or ethnic status. When making reports to federal government entities, institutions have to "map" categories to fit federal categories. U.S. citizens have to be put into such categories as Black, non-Hispanic, American Indian/Alaskan Native, Asian or Pacific Islander, Hispanic, White and race/ethnicity unknown.

TALKtoUS

Tell us about yourself! The Missouri Southern Alumni Association will post news of alumni in each issue of *Crossroads*. Tell us about births, career changes, retirements and other achievements. We want to keep in touch with you!

Send information to:
MSSU Alumni Association
3950 East Newman Road
Joplin, MO 64801
or by Fax to the Alumni Office at:
(417) 625-3085.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____

Business Phone _____

E-mail address _____

Class Notes

As of July 1, 2007

1960s

Jim Krudwig, '66, and Lisa Robinson, '89 of the Small Business Development Center (SBDC at Missouri Southern State University, were awarded certificates from the University of Missouri Business Development Program. Krudwig and Robinson were recognized along with seven other field personnel for excellent service in performing 95% of all sales revenue and 83% of loans for small business clients served out of 45 FTE field personnel for FY2006. The Small Business Development Center is an outreach program of The Robert W. Plaster School of Business Administration.

1970s

Gary Nodler, '72, State Senator R-Joplin, has been appointed to serve as chairman of the Missouri Senate Appropriations Committee, which is largely responsible for crafting the state's budget that is constitutionally due each year. Senator Nodler was appointed to the appropriations committee during his first year in the Senate in 2002. He then became vice-chairman in 2004 under then-chairman Sen. Chuck Gross, who recently retired from the Senate.

Leon Royer, '72, was the featured speaker at the Leadership Joplin Symposium and also as part of the Robert W. Plaster School of Business Administration's Business and Economic Lecture Series. He is president and member of the Board of Directors of American Bank in Bozeman, MT. Royer serves on the board of Foundation for Research on Economics and the Environment and is a 1972 graduate of MSSU's School of Business.

Randee Kaiser, '73, retired as the director of the Division of Rehabilitative Services (DORS) from the State of Missouri.

Charles Nodler, '75, associate professor and archivist in the Spiva Library, was honored as the 2007 Outstanding Alumnus

of Crowder College in June.

Robert Kelly, '76, has been re-elected to serve on the Alumni Association's Board of Directors for the 2008-2011 term. He is a Past President of the MSSU Alumni Association Board of Directors, and served on the board from 1995 – 2001. He helped create the Loyal Order, which is a national Alumni Association for Kappa Alpha. Bob and his wife, Candace, reside in Joplin and have a son, Brennen.

Steve Junkins, '77 and '94, has been promoted to Senior Manager of Baird, Kurtz and Dobson (BKD). He is a member of BKD's WealthPlan services team, providing tax planning, consulting and preparation services for individuals, corporations and small businesses.

1980s

Mark G. Boyer, '84, recently published his 28th book, *When Day is Done: Nighttime Prayers through the Church Year*. Boyer is also the founding pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Nixa, and a part-time faculty member in Religious Studies at Missouri State University.

Jolene "Jo" Burtrum, '86, has been granted Fellowship status with the American College of Medical Practice Executives.

Lee Elliff Pound, '86, was appointed as Treasurer of the Carthage R-9 School District School Board for 2007-2008.

Jenny (Lundstrom) Richards, '86, has been re-elected to serve on the Alumni Association's Board of Directors for the 2008-2011 term. She has served as the Alumni Board Secretary and will serve as the 2007-2008 Vice President. She is a Membership Committee chairman for the Association. Jenny and her husband, Troy, reside in Joplin and have one child, Tristan.

Michael Garoutte, '89, will be MSSU's new Director of the

Honors Program. He is associate professor of Chemistry and joined the Southern faculty in 1997. He was a member of the Honors Program as he earned his B.S. degree in chemistry from Missouri Southern. His Ph.D. in Chemistry is from the University of Kansas. Garoutte is also the faculty advisor to ODK.

1990s

Michael Gray, '91 and '92, was recently elected to firm partnership of Baird, Kurtz and Dobson (BKD) Manufacturing & Distribution Group and the Southern Missouri retail and business services team. He was inducted into the Lambda Gamma chapter of Delta Mu Delta International Honor Society in Business Administration in recognition of his outstanding service to the local business community.

Kandy Frazier, '92, will assume the position of Principal of Carthage Senior High School. She has been promoted from her position as Assistant Principal, which she held for the past three years.

Susan Craig, '93, Director of Project Stay on MSSU's campus, was selected as a finalist for the Dan Cockrell Award at the University of Missouri-Columbia. The award recognizes one outstanding dissertation each year in the Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis department. Susan's dissertation was entitled "Decision-Making Processes and the Role of Policy in Discipline Decisions Concerning Students with Psychiatric Disabilities."

Jeff Jones, '93, was appointed as Vice President of the Carthage R-9 School District School Board for 2007-2008.

Todd Pefferman, '98, has been promoted to Senior Manager of Baird, Kurtz and Dobson (BKD). He is a member of BKD's WealthPlan services team. He is part of a group providing specialized analyses

of tax accounting methods for small business to identify appropriate accounting methods and help increase tax savings.

2000s

Adam Doss, '00, has a part in the film, *Price of the American Dream II*, which is currently in post production. He has the role of undercover cop, Harvey.

Chad Rutledge, '01, was recently recognized as one of Utah Business Magazine's "40 Under 40." He is employed with State Farm Insurance.

Jeffrey Wilson, '01, was elected to serve on the Alumni Association Board of Directors for the 2008-2011 term. He is a Commercial Title Officer with Landchoice, L.L.C. Missouri's largest title insurer. Jeff currently resides in Kimberling City with his wife **Stephana**, another '01 MSSU graduate, and they have two children Evan 3, and Carleigh 18 months.

James Jordan, '02, has "a couple of really fun scenes" in a recently released DVD of *Seraphim Falls*, starring Liam Neeson and Pierce Brosnan.

Josh Doak, '03 has been named the new Director of Housing at Missouri Southern. Josh has served the University the past four years as a Resident Director.

Jennifer Hartman Boyd, '04, was recently elected to serve on the Alumni Association's Board of Directors for the 2008-2011 term. She works as a Web and Graphic Designer for IBT Inc., a national industrial distributor based in Merriam, KS. Jennifer and her husband **Casey, '04**, reside in Kansas City, Mo.

Mark Catanzaro, '04, recently graduated from Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville with a Masters of Science in Economics and Finance. He is currently employed as a

In Memory

As of June 30, 2007:

Missouri Southern State University honors those alumni and friends of the University who have recently passed away. Please contact us at (417) 625-9355 or email AlumniAssoc@mssu.edu for any additions to the next issue.

ALUMNI

O. Warren Baker, Joplin Junior College, died May 20, 2007
John Calhoun, Joplin Junior College, died June 13, 2007
Maxine Carr, Joplin Junior College, died June 13, 2007
Jimmie Davenport, '48, died June 18, 2007
Charles S. Davis, M.D., Joplin Junior College, died May 2, 2007
Virginia C. Foster, Joplin Junior College, died May 17, 2007
Jonathan C. Gray, '94, died May 31, 2007
Charles R. Hedrick, '43, died Dec. 26, 2006
Jack Edward Hill, '76, died April 20, 2007
Daniel R. Hoyt, died April 20, 2007
Deborah Roberta Lee, '71, died July 8, 2007
Virgil Leverett, '41, died 2007
Lula V. Moffet, Joplin Junior College, died May 28, 2007
William E. (Bill) Owen, died April 20, 2007
Leslie Willard Pearson, '51, died April 26, 2007
Doris E. Peek, Joplin Junior College, died June 22, 2007
George G. Rainey, Sr., '85, died July 9, 2007
Harriet A. Thomas, Joplin Junior College, died June 1, 2007
Sheri L. Thomas, '96, died July 14, 2007
Leo "Pete" Turnbull Jr, Joplin Junior College, died June 13, 2007
Bernice M. Welborn, '70, died May 24, 2007

FRIENDS OF THE UNIVERSITY

William E. Bateman, died July 2, 2007
Karl Blanchard, Sr., died June 21, 2007
Virginia Cooper, head baker at the former Missouri Southern State College, died June 12, 2007
Richard Henry, died June 21, 2007
Mary Onley, died June 30, 2007
Carol Rakestraw, died July 5, 2007
Henry Warten, died May 5, 2007
Joann Windle, died June 29, 2007
Edgar Wuerdeman, died June 29, 2007

Financial Analyst for the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis.

Alice Claypool, '05, will assume the position of Registrar at Fort Scott Community College, in Fort Scott, KS after serving as assistant registrar for the past four years.

Jalon Smith, '05, was recognized with the Outstanding Beginning Teacher Award from the Missouri Association for Colleges of Teacher Education. She was also elected to serve on the Alumni Association

Board of Directors for the 2008-2011 term. She teaches 4th grade at Carl Junction Intermediate School. Jalon and her husband, J.C. reside in Joplin, Mo.

Kevin Ferdig, '06, is now Residence Hall Director of Blaine Hall at MSSU.

Danielle Dunn, '07, is now Residence Hall Director of McCormick Hall at MSSU.

Brett Miller, '07, is now Residence Hall Director of East Hall at MSSU.

Athletics gets new game face

For the first time since the Lions began playing sports at the NCAA level, Southern has a new logo package.

"We simply felt the time had come for a new look and a new identity," said Athletics Director Sallie Beard. "Our identity as a department had become a bit fragmented. Some coaches used the old logo and some didn't. Some had even come up with alternative logos. What we ultimately want is for our coaches and players to wear a unified logo that identifies them as Missouri Southern Lions. We know that this type of branding takes time, but we think we now have the logo that will allow us to achieve these goals."

The announcement capped off a process that has taken nearly two years. The new logo will be used exclusively for the athletic department. The university's existing logo will remain unchanged.

Local graphic artist A.J. Wood painted a roaring lion that was the inspiration for this logo.

Wood then converted his original painting to a digitized version that could be used as a logo.

Several focus group sessions were conducted to



gather feedback, and some adjustments were made to Wood's design. A final version was decided upon and presented to University President, Dr. Julio León for approval.

"Our initial focus group really gave us great direction," Beard said. "They let us know that there was a desire for a new look, and that the new logo needed intensity, pride, and just a more athletic overall look."

3 to enter Southern Hall of Fame

Two former baseball players and one softball player will enter the Missouri Southern State University Athletics Hall of Fame in ceremonies planned in conjunction with the Homecoming football game Oct. 13.

Rich Weisensee and Mark Baker (baseball) along with Holly (Trantham) Brewer (softball) make up the induction Class of 2007.

The newest class will be present at the Alumni Awards Dinner on Oct. 12 before speaking at the Lion Pride Brunch and participating in the Homecoming parade Oct. 13. Then they'll be introduced, honored and officially inducted into the Hall of Fame at halftime of the Missouri Southern-Fort Hays State Homecoming football game during the afternoon of Oct. 13.

Weisensee was a two-year letterwinner for the Lions and ranks fourth in career batting average with a .374 mark. He batted .431 in 1980 and ranks second in single-season doubles with 24. He led the 1980 squad in home runs (5), slugging (.655), on base percentage (.476), hits (90), doubles (24), stolen bases (27), and assists (149) including eight in one game against Winona State on April 2, 1980.

Baker was a four-year letterwinner for the Lions and concluded his career by helping lead the Lions to a berth in the 1991 and

1992 NCAA Division II College World Series finishing as the national runner up in 1991.

Brewer was a four-year letterwinner for the Lions where she won 69 games on the mound. During her tenure, the Lions went 150-51 overall. She won seven games as a freshman in 1994, but was 23-3 in 1995, 27-7 in 1996 and 12-7 in 1997.

Brewer ranks second all-time at Southern in appearances (113), complete games (77), innings pitched (619) and strikeouts (438) while being fourth in saves (5) and fifth in ERA (1.20). She was a four-time All-MIAA selection. Brewer was also a third team All-American selection in 1995.

The Missouri Southern Athletics Hall of Fame was established to pay tribute, to give deserved recognition and to enhance school tradition by honoring former athletic letterwinners and/or coaches who have shown distinctive, unique or exceptional ability while on campus of the school or since graduation. The honorees must be graduates of Missouri Southern and there must have been a lapse of at least 10 years since the individual last participated in athletics at Southern.

With the addition of the 2007 class, the MSSU Athletics Hall of Fame now includes 82 members and two teams.

Darnell's 10-year wait is over

'97 alumnus comes back to coach baseball Lions

For Bryce Darnell, apparently you can come home again.

On May 22, Missouri Southern Director of Athletics Sallie Beard announced Darnell would take over for Warren Turner as the third head coach in Southern baseball history. Darnell graduated from the University in 1997 and played for the Lions under Turner.

"I'm extremely honored to be here with you today," Darnell said. "I told Sallie (Beard) when she called me last week that this is a phone call I've been waiting for for the past 10 years. I had a great experience as a student-athlete at Southern.

"I want to thank Warren Turner. He is a man that I have tremendous respect for and a man that I've been proud to refer to as 'my coach.'"

Beard said

Darnell was a natural choice.

"Bryce brings tremendous credibility to this position," Beard said. "We think this is a natural step for Bryce. We think he will help make Missouri Southern baseball the tradition that it has to be and the tradition that it has been in the past.

"He (Darnell) brings with him an overwhelming community support. This community is going to welcome his family with open arms."

Turner retired after 31 years at Southern including 852 wins and two NCAA Division II College World Series appearances.

Darnell has been the head baseball coach at Webb City High School the past eight years, while also teaching social studies at the school. His baseball teams at Webb City have won the last two Missouri Class 3 State Championships.

A three-year player for the Lions from 1994-1996, Darnell transferred to Southern after a year at the University of Minnesota. A Brooklyn Center, Minn. native, Darnell was a three-sport athlete at BCHS being named all-state in baseball and football, as well as all-conference in basketball. Darnell played for his father, Doug, at BCHS. Doug Darnell was also the Athletic Director at BCHS.

Darnell hit .436 in 30 games as a sophomore for the Lions in 1994, which is the sixth highest batting average in a season at Southern. He was named

honorable mention All-MIAA that year. He had his best season in 1995, helping the Lions to a 43-13 record, including a 17-3 mark in MIAA play. He hit .364 that year with 13 doubles, three homers and 47 RBIs en route to being named first-team all-region and all-MIAA. The Lions were second in the MIAA Postseason Tournament and made an appearance in the NCAA Division II Central Region Tournament.

Darnell's senior season saw the catcher hit .339 with 20 doubles, four homers and 48 RBIs in 55 games. The 20 doubles is fifth all-time in a season at Southern. He was named honorable mention all-MIAA that year.

Darnell was drafted after his junior season in the 40th round of the Major League Baseball Draft by the St. Louis Cardinals. He was later

"I want to thank Warren Turner. He is a man that I have tremendous respect for and a man that I've been proud to refer to as 'my coach.'"

drafted after his senior season in the 58th round by the Arizona Diamondbacks. He played professionally for one season with the Visalia Oaks, a single A affiliate of the Diamondbacks.

Darnell's .577 on base percentage as a sophomore ranks third in a season, while his .996 fielding percentage (1 error) in 1995 is second all-time. He ranks seventh in career doubles with 40, while ranking sixth in batting average (.366) and seventh in fielding percentage (.976).

Darnell has amassed a 160-43 career record at Webb City, including two state championships. He was *The Joplin Globe* Coach of the Year in 2002 and 2005, while being named the Missouri Class 3 Coach of the Year in 2005 and 2006. He holds a degree in Secondary Education from Missouri Southern (1997), as well as a Masters in Educational Administration from Missouri State University (2000).

"I had a great ten years at Webb City," Darnell said. "Eight years ago, the superintendent at Webb City asked me if I was happy with my job, and I said I'm extremely happy. But there's only one other job that I'd rather have and that's the head baseball coach at Missouri Southern."

Darnell and his wife, Pamela have two children, Darcy (5), and Cy (2).

Sports

were Big Apple bound. While there I juggled two jobs (NY is an expensive place!), working as a project manager at the Wall Street offices of JDRF while I continued my work for the EEIU, now as a consultant. But my passion belonged to environmental concerns, and soon I returned full time to these issues, as my office became my laptop. During 2006 I found myself increasingly compelled to act on a need I had observed throughout my years of environmental advocacy and community service: the urgent necessity to involve all stakeholders in the discussions and decision-making processes surrounding environmental issues — decisions that deeply impact the often least represented segments of our society. In November of that year, with the support and encouragement of a group of like-minded colleagues and friends, I launched the EcoRes Forum (www.eco-res.org) as a virtual platform for a series of e-conferences and related projects on the social and environmental issues surrounding climate change. Interest in the Forum has been overwhelming — but these are the challenges I like best.

EcoRes's e-conference series launched in April of this year, with 700-plus registrants from over 90 countries participating. Panelists and speakers included Sir John Houghton, former chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) Working Group I and lead editor of the first three IPCC reports; Mohan Munasinghe, IPCC vice chair and senior advisor to the government of Sri Lanka; John Allen, inventor and co-founder of Biosphere 2 and the Research Vessel *Heraclitus*; Donald Brown, director, Consortium for Interdisciplinary Environmental Policy, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection; John Cairns, Jr., long-time voice for sustainable use of the biosphere, Virginia Tech; Mary Lou Finley, social movement expert, activist and author of *Doing Democracy*, Antioch University; Michael Frome, noted author, educator, advocate & conser-

vationist, hailed for his work on environmental stewardship; Lev Fishelson, marine biologist and environmental education campaigner, Tel Aviv University; Wendy Lynne Lee, environmental philosopher and champion of ecological feminism, Bloom University; John Lemons, University of New England conservation policy expert and environmental studies professor; Ted Mosquin, co-author of *A Manifesto for Earth and ecospherics* expert; Andrew Revkin, New York Times environment

Now, two years after returning to the USA, Bjoern and I find ourselves in Arizona, on the northern rim of the Sonoran Desert — quite a change in scenery from southwest Missouri, the German foothills, and the New York skyscrapers.

reporter and author; Karen Warren, ecofeminist philosophy pioneer and "street philosopher"; and more.

The second in our e-conference series, "Environmental (in)Justice: Sources, Symptoms, and Solutions", is scheduled for November 2007. We'll be looking at the underlying causes of environmental injustice and what can be done to stop intentional discrimination, including how awareness can be raised to prevent unintentional discriminatory practices. Of particular interest will be the implications of the decisions being made by environmental policy-makers, professionals, and activists, as well as what can be done to ensure that the multiple facets of environmental justice are fully incorporated in decision-making venues and strategic planning sessions throughout our societies.

Recognizing the value of capturing the voices of this generation's *zeitzeugen*, e-witness's purpose is "to compile an open-access collection of personal observations, stories, and perspec-

tives from individuals of various backgrounds and ways of life from around the world... [f]rom locally observed changing weather patterns to what makes newspaper headlines, from watching 'new and improved' technologies black-labeled as 'environmental hazards,' from stories of personal growth and learning as the reality of climate change has and continues to be revealed, these stories of growth, action, and encouragement will bear witness to future generations about our individual responses to the global threat of climate change." (www.eco-res.org/press/ewitness.html) The Forum will be encouraging the formation of community and academic discussion groups to consider these materials and generate their own commentaries to share with concerned citizens. (*Guidelines for submissions to the e-witness archival project will soon be finalized. If you are interested in taking part in this initiative, please write e-witness@eco-res.org.*) As for the Forum itself, we are in the process of establishing an international organization to address the ethical, political and socio-cultural aspects of climate change in a multi-track fashion, focusing on nine primary channels of activity. This is only the beginning!

As I shared in a recent interview about my vision for the Forum, I see it as a cutting-edge channel for increasing public dialogue and effectively facilitating change on these issues. I like to stress its "green nature," as well as the Forum's inclusive potential, due to its open access and the fact that the e-conference series is offered free of charge. As for my role, first and foremost, I see myself as facilitator, doing what I've learned I do best: asking questions, identifying platforms, and bringing together key players to order to effect real change.

Now, two years after returning to the USA, Bjoern and I find ourselves in Arizona, on the northern rim of the Sonoran Desert — quite a change in scenery from southwest Missouri, the German foothills, and the New York skyscrapers. As it looks, this summer we'll be moving on to Los Angeles, continuing our circle of the globe. We laugh,

saying that what we learned in change management courses has been the most useful in our lives, which, for the past 15 years, have included one major change after another on almost a yearly basis. Not surprisingly, it gets easier with time (i.e., we've learned to unpack and set up house in less than three days). And to think: This all began with one class, and one teacher who believed in me enough to show me a door □ and to knock on it on my behalf. Thank you, Deb Gipson, for seeing what you saw — I think you might be surprised to see where it has led. And thank you, Dr. Ackiss, Dr. Kluthe, for inviting me to join the Honors Program. Thank you to all of my professors for everything you taught me, in word and in deed, especially my advisor Annetta St. Clair, who showed me the way, and my philosopher king Barry Brown, who never answered any of my questions. I'll never forget my years at Missouri Southern, or that my life as I know it began on a small liberal arts campus in southwest Missouri, where a few good people took a few big chances on a small-town girl and changed her life forever.

Taking Action on Climate Change: Why Me? Why Now?

By Mary Leyser

Talk of climate change is all around us. In fact, some might argue, this talk is so pervasive that one might assume that everything is being taken care of, that now we've read the headlines and made a donation to an environmental NGO, our consciences can be clear and we can all go back to our normal lives. Nothing could be further from the truth.

With the February release of the IPCC report on the overwhelming scientific evidence of human-driven climate change, the verdict has come in: Climate change is occurring, and at a much faster rate than natural cycles have ever taken. The cause: Unsustainable practices and technologies, and

our use and abuse of the same. Lured by our excitement and enthusiasm over everything we *can* do (after all, we're only human), we have neglected one key consideration: Just because we *can*, does that mean we *should*? And if we *do*, what are the implications? As a result of our misguided but by-and-large good intentions, the proverbial chickens have come home to roost, and they've brought with them the unwelcome specter of potential catastrophic climate change.

So now what? What can we do, that isn't already being done? What can I do, what can you do, as individuals, that could possibly make a difference? The answer is simple: a LOT. All it takes is opening one's eyes to the possibilities.

So now what? What can we do, that isn't already being done? What can *I* do, what can *you* do, as individuals, that could possibly make a difference? The answer is simple: a LOT. Regardless of one's personal reason for action, be this a moral or ethical principle, a feeling of social responsibility, the thought of one's great-grandchildren living in a world much different than that we now know, or simply the warm fuzzy feeling that comes with right action, there is much that each person can do. All it takes is opening one's eyes to the possibilities.

The first step in any change is knowledge. We can begin by educating ourselves: about these issues and their implications for each of us, and about how each of us can take action. Not sure where to start? Earlier this month the third volume of the IPCC 2007 report, "Mitigation of Climate Change," was released in Bangkok. Get a copy and read it (www.ipcc.ch/), then follow the ensuing debate and proceedings on

the report's findings, such as the IPCC panel's February testimony before the U.S. House Committee on Science and Technology [http://science.house.gov/publications/hearings_markup_details.aspx?NewsID=1264].

Perhaps most importantly, we should not simply accept the viewpoints voiced by either camp. Applying basic critical thinking, let's test the evidence to the best of our abilities, giving these issues our own personal due diligence. Learn about the scientific research, review, and publication processes, and then, bearing this in mind, critically analyze these information sources. Who is behind these claims, and why? Where is the support coming from for these sources? What personal threats and opportunities exist for those both taking part in and staying out of the public debate? For those who affirm and those who deny climate change? Are there potential conflicts of interest? As T.J. Watson said, "*The ability to ask the right question is more than half the battle of finding the answer.*"

As we educate ourselves, let's start talking: to our families, our colleagues, our neighbors. Many people, including myself, feel that we are approaching a social tipping point at which individuals around the globe will recognize the paradigm shift necessary to effect change and will take swift action accordingly. To reach this point, we must build on our current momentum, working together to reach our communities and governments. Get involved with local organizations, from environmental groups to political parties, from religious and philosophical organizations to educational initiatives. Check out a discussion guide like the one produced by Northwest Earth Institute (www.nwei.org/NWEL/Glofal%20Warming.html) and then work with your neighbors to host public discussions about these topics. Encourage debate, as a foundational value of democratic principles. True, we may not know all the answers yet, but we can ask questions, exchange ideas and raise awareness. Such is the task of the empowered and empowering citizen.

While we're educating ourselves and talking to friends and colleagues, we can be taking personal action. Herein lies the key, as many have pointed out: The technologies needed already exist — now all that is required is the personal and political will — and the discipline — to act. We can start by calculating our individual carbon footprints and by adjusting and offsetting them as appropriate. After all, we can hardly expect industries and governments to take steps that we ourselves are not willing to take.

As we make these personal changes, our circles of influence will widen, and we can begin effecting change in our communities and local governments. Now, thanks to the Internet, one's efforts need not stop at neighborhood borders: Our outreach and discussions can take place at whatever level we choose, crossing borders geographical, political, and social. The EcoRes Forum (www.eco-res.org) is a perfect example of how new media can expand our reach.

In addition, citizens in democratic countries hold an even greater responsibility: the power of the vote. By raising our collective electoral voice on behalf of future generations, we can

make powerful inroads on these issues. Many not-for-profit organizations, such as Environmental Defense (www.environmentaldefense.org), offer programs solely focused on informing voters about judicial proceedings, issuing virtual calls for action when key legislation comes up for consideration. This is a simple, free, yet immensely effective way for you to exercise your power as a citizen.

Get involved: Write your politicians, locally and nationally. Encourage political participation, both by educated voters and by those willing to enter the public arena on eco-friendly platforms. When election time rolls around, find out where local politicians stand on these issues. Talk to your local paper about producing a voter's guide to help educate the public, and then vote accordingly.

The power of the vote does not stop at the ballot booth. We have another way to vote: By "putting our money where our mouths are" and choosing to shop for and invest in environmentally friendly and sustainable technologies and products. In publicly traded companies, educated and committed shareholders hold the cards — and have the chance to hold companies responsible

while guiding them to more socially and environmentally sustainable practices. In addition, actively support those industries and initiatives already working in this direction — and encourage those within your circle of influence to do the same.

The need for action is more urgent than ever. Scientists, well known for their cautiously conservative approach, recognize this necessity as so compelling that they've begun to quantify their calls for action. Many are saying that intensive initiatives must be taken within the next 10 years to avoid approaching — and crossing — an environmental tipping point. As Kofi Annan said at the November COP in Nairobi, *"The question is not whether climate change is happening but whether, in the face of this emergency, we ourselves can change fast enough."* We can change — and we can make a difference. But, this change will require individual, personal commitment and discipline. Once we make that commitment, the next steps of education, outreach, and action will follow as second nature. Take that first step: Get committed. The time is now, and you are here. You *can* make a difference. Each of us can. Let's make this change — together.

ROSEWICZ

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resting easy on that subject. And because I've reached a point of peace, I find myself in the happiest state of my life. No, I don't want to teach English for the rest of my life. But I also don't want to wake up at age 60 and have the horrible realization that I didn't do what I wanted with my life, which is traveling. So right now, my job and lifestyle is enabling me to pay the bills and travel the world. How many people wouldn't want that?

I just finished a two-week vacation in Cambodia and southern Laos, meeting some of the kindest people ever and visiting some of the most untouched land left on Earth. The ancient ruins of the Angkor Empire in Cambodia

show what was; the secluded Si Phan Don in southern Laos proves what still can be. As I said earlier, we must always be aware of who and what makes up the world outside ourselves.

I spent my last couple of days of vacation in Vientiane, the capital of Laos. The morning before flying home to Vietnam, I woke up early to have breakfast at one of the delicious bakeries in French-influenced Vientiane. While sipping on hot Laos coffee, I met an ex-pat Vietnamese woman and her half French-half Vietnamese young son. When they left, I watched out the window as the mother gave her son some money. The toddler walked over, fascinated, to give the bills to a boy beggar, suffering from deformities. Though no common language could be spoken between the baby and his mother and the

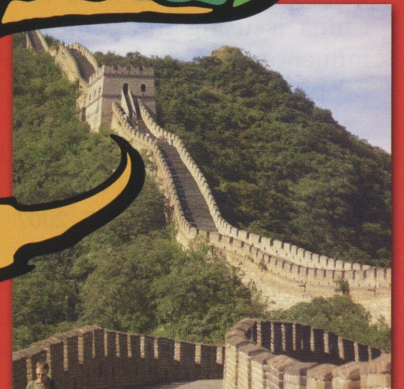
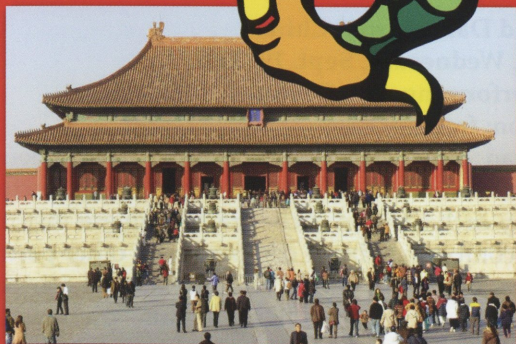
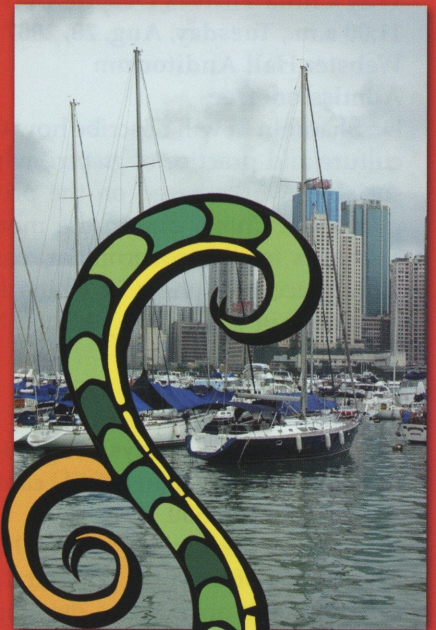
young man, they still communicated for a few minutes. The mother stood watching with a bright smile on her face, as her young son grinned and played with the boy, who was smiling even more brightly. I immediately teared up. This was perhaps the most inspirational scene of my life, the best way my vacation could have ended.

And oh — so what happened in that small, stranded ship of ours that I spoke of earlier? We wondered what would happen; we waited. Eventually, two random guys came by in their own boat. They turned around, we hooked our arms onto their boat, and they kindly drove us back to our island. Upon our return, again, no words were exchanged due to a language barrier, but the thanks were understood.

These are the ways I like to think of the world.

Misouri Southern State University
Institute of International Studies

THE
CHINA
SEMESTER



中國

Fall 2007

In the Eye of the Hurricane
9:30 a.m., Tuesday, Aug. 28, 2007
Webster Hall Auditorium

Admission: free

Dr. Shaomin Li will discuss the causes and consequences of China's "Great Leap Forward" from a revolutionary state to a red capitalist society, and its impact on the U.S. and the world. Historical and personal photos and art works by Dr. Li will be shown.

Why China Thrives Despite Corruption

11:00 a.m., Tuesday, Aug. 28, 2007

Webster Hall Auditorium

Admission: free

Dr. Shaomin Li will describe how China is best known for its culture and practice of *guanxi*, which refers to the informal social networks based on the private relationships among people. In China, due to the monopoly of most economic resources by the government, corruption is rampant. The widely accepted view in China is that "power cannot be deposited in a bank, so you had better profit from it while you can."

Tai Chi Chuan Class

7:00-8:00 p.m., Thursdays, Aug. 30-Nov. 1, 2007

Racquetball courts on MSSU campus

Enrollment fee: \$50

In this 10-week course, you will learn the 24-form Tai Chi Chuan, one of the most popular Tai Chi forms in China. Tai Chi Chuan is an exercise developed from an old Chinese martial art. The slow and elegant movements of Tai Chi Chuan will help you to balance the yin and yang inside your body, and improve and maintain both mental and physical health.

Dr. Kexi Liu, a veteran Tai Chi Chuan teacher with more than 20 years experience, will be the instructor. Enrollment is limited to 20 people.

The Rise of China in the 21st Century Through Sport

10:00 a.m., Wednesday, Sept. 5, 2007

Webster Hall Auditorium

Admission: free

The MSSU volleyball team, which toured Shanghai and Beijing in May, will share its experiences and discuss how China is using the platform of sports and recreation to influence the world and to shape the culture of 1.4 billion people within its borders.

Two Worlds, Single Country: The Rural and Urban Divide in China

9:00 a.m., Friday, Sept. 7, 2007

Webster Hall Auditorium

Admission: free

While the level of per-capita income and economic opportunities has increased dramatically for all Chinese over the last two decades, the rural and urban divide continues to grow. The "rural and urban gap" includes vast differences in the quality of life such as educational opportunities and access to basic public services.

Democratizing or Legitimizing the Authoritarian Regime: Political Reform in China Since 1989

11:00 a.m., Friday, Sept. 7, 2007

Webster Hall Auditorium

Admission: free

While it is clear that China is currently governed by a single party authoritarian regime, a number of limited political reforms have been introduced over the last two decades. The most notable reforms are local elections for village leaders in the countryside (grassroots democracy) and laws that allow individuals to sue local government agencies and officials. The intent of the central leadership is not to democratize China. Instead, these reforms are meant to serve as an outlet for citizen dissatisfaction that is, using legal means rather than protest and revolts. Indeed, many citizens view the national laws as tools to protect themselves from abusive local officials. Rather than undermine the position of Chinese Communist Party, these reforms have helped legitimize the central leadership. However, the unintended result of grassroots democracy and legal reforms may be a growing demand for greater democratic reforms.

Eloquence in the Mandarin Court: The Place of Poetry in the Life of Chinese Court-Officials

9:30 a.m., Tuesday, Sept. 11, 2007

Webster Hall Auditorium

Admission: free

Join Dr. Ding Xiang Warner for an introductory look at the way in which the composition of poetry once played a central role in the social life of Chinese court-officials. Discover some of the conventions and decorums of Chinese poetry while exploring in particular the art of poetic exchange among literati in medieval China.

Southern Theatre presents:

Snow in Midsummer

7:30 p.m., Tuesday-Saturday, Sept. 11-15, 2007

Bud Walton Theatre

Admission: free to students, faculty, staff; \$3 for adults; \$1 for senior citizens and high school students

By Kuan Han-ch'ing, translated by Liu Jung-en

Directed by Dr. James Lile

Southern Theatre offers a classic play from the Yuan Dynasty in which a virtuous young woman, executed for a murder she did not commit, sends her spirit back to earth to see that justice is finally done. This play has been popular with Chinese audiences since the 13th century.

Songs and Dances from China

7:30 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 19, 2007

Taylor Performing Arts Center

Admission: free

The Henan Song and Dance Troupe, from Zhengzhou, capital of the Henan Province in China, includes a symphony orchestra, an orchestra of Chinese instruments, an opera company, a dance company, and other performing art groups. Its performers have won national competitions in music and dance. Tonight's program, presented by 15

selected performers of the troupe, includes colorful dances, folk songs, and Chinese instrumental music performed on the erhu, suona, zheng, and sheng.

Chinese Kite Flying Contest (instructions)

11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 20, 2007

12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m., Friday, Sept. 21, 2007

University Java in Spiva Library Eat a free lunch while learning how to build your kite for a contest to be held at 2:00 p.m. Friday, Sept. 21 on the MSSU soccer fields. Some patterns and materials will be provided. Kites will be judged in four or five categories, to be decided by the judges. Prizes will be awarded.

The Politics of Piracy: Intellectual

Property in Contemporary China

9:00 a.m., Friday, Sept. 21, 2007

Webster Hall Auditorium

Admission: free

One of the principal assumptions about Sino-U.S. trade negotiations is that once the U.S. and China come to an agreement, the degree to which implementation will be successful is a function of Beijing's will. Professor Mertha argues that this assumption is fundamentally flawed, that policy implementation is shaped by the actual contours of particular bureaucracies, quite independent of Beijing's preferences. He uses the case of intellectual property to illustrate these claims.

Six Things That Every Businessperson Should Know About China

11:00 a.m., Friday, Sept. 21, 2007

Cornell Auditorium in Plaster Hall

Admission: free

Books on how to do business in China have become something of an industry themselves. Often, these books talk about handshakes, "face," *guanxi*, and other rather superficial dimensions of the business relationship. In this talk, Professor Mertha cuts to the chase and describes the more fundamental aspects of the business relationship, and, specifically, on identifying where the real power lies. He says the conclusions may surprise you.

The Flora of China: An International Project to Describe the 31,000 Wild Plants of China

7:30 p.m., Monday, Sept. 24, 2007

Webster Hall Auditorium

Admission: free

This lecture will give a concise description of the Flora of China Project, an international collaboration between Chinese and non-Chinese botanists to catalog the estimated 31,000 species of wild plants in China. The project began in 1988 and now has a 21-member editorial committee and 11 partner institutions: four in China and seven in the West, coordinated by the Missouri Botanical Garden and the Institute of Botany, Beijing. The Flora itself is being written in English by more than 450 authors and will comprise 24 volumes of text and 24 accompanying volumes of illustrations, plus one introductory volume. Due for

completion in 2012, so far 13 volumes of text and 11 volumes of illustrations have been published, accounting for more than 16,000 species.

Travels in China for Botanical Field Work

11:00 a.m., Tuesday, Sept. 25, 2007

Webster Hall Auditorium

Admission: free

Dr. Nick Turland will describe traveling into remote rural regions of China in order to collect plant specimens for scientific study. Not only should this give a picture of botanical field work in general, but it will introduce you to China and its amazingly diverse flora of 31,000 seed plant species. Dr. Turland will describe the day-to-day life of working in the field, focusing on trips that he has made, describing team members, language issues, transportation, equipment, locating suitable areas of habitat, methods of collecting and preserving plant specimens, food (very diverse in rural China), accommodation, and some of the hazards.

Confucian Role Ethics: A Moral

Foundation for Human Rights

10:00 a.m., Wednesday, Sept. 26, 2007

Cornell Auditorium in Plaster Hall

Admission: free

Although more than 150 nations have ratified the U.N. International Covenant on Social, Economic and Cultural Rights, the United States has not. In significant measure this is due to grounding the concept of human rights in a view of human beings as essentially free, autonomous individuals. In this way civil and political rights may be straightforwardly championed and legally defended, but not the social, economic or cultural, except on some other basis than rights. Seeing human beings most basically as interrelated persons, Confucians can easily champion both sets of rights, giving their role ethics a claim on our attention today as the gap between the wealthy and the impoverished continues to widen both at home and abroad.

The Gockel International Symposium:

China & the U.S.:

Steering a Course for Collision or Convergence?

The "China Challenge" as Myth and Reality

9:30 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 27, 2007

Taylor Performing Arts Center

Admission: free

Few countries have experienced more dramatic changes as did China in the past century and the past quarter century in particular. From a "revolutionary country" to a "status quo power," and from an "outsider" to an "insider" of the existing international system, the realities of the grand transformation in China's state, society and international outlook have often been obscured by all kinds of myths. For the purpose of highlighting the realities and shattering the myths, Professor Chen discusses the origins, processes and implications of China's rise from the perspective of a historian of U.S.-China relations.

China and the U.S.: Who Threatens Who?

7:00 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 27, 2007

Webster Hall Auditorium

Admission: free

Dr. Rosemont will discuss how the U.S. relationship to China can be understood from economic, political, and military perspectives and also the role non-governmental organizations and global institutions, such as the United Nations, the World Trade Organization, and the International Monetary Fund, play in this complex international relationship.

Encountering the Rising China:

Three Challenges Facing Sino-American Relations

7:00 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 27, 2007

Webster Hall Auditorium

Admission: free

China's rapid rise as a prominent world power in the past quarter century has profoundly changed the world today and has the potential to change the world even more significantly in the future. This should be regarded more as the "China challenge" rather than the "China threat." Professor Chen will discuss how America can be prepared to meet this challenge in three areas: strategic, policymaking and implementation, and cultural and educational. He will focus on how institutions of higher education in the United States can be a part of America's responses.

Uncontested Nationalism & Realpolitik in China's Changing Relations with the U.S.

11:00 a.m., Tuesday, Oct. 2, 2007

Webster Hall Auditorium

Admission: free

Professor Jiang will discuss the changes in China's political spectrum, trying to give a realistic evaluation on the emerging "big-economic power" mindset and its changing relations with the U.S. He explores the Chinese International Relations theory as to "see" what the future is going to be in the changing relations with that mindset manifested in the peculiar nationalistic way Chinese.

Modern China and Chinese Past:

A Political Analysis of China-Japan-Taiwan Triangle

1:00 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 2, 2007

Webster Hall Auditorium

Admission: free

Professor Jiang expounds on the fact that China is living in its past despite its economic success. The resentment toward Japan and its determined goal of unifying Taiwan often provides limited space as to make itself a nation able to share the responsibility in world affairs. U.S.-China relations continue to be a facade of "strategic partnership" resulting from China's nationalistic geo-political practice.

The Taiwan Difference

Diabolo Dance Theatre of Taiwan

7:00 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 3, 2007

Taylor Performing Arts Center

Admission free:

The Diabolo Dance Theatre of Taiwan has merged traditional

diabolo with contemporary dance and gymnastics, becoming the first artistic performing group to combine these creative elements with theatrical ideas. These young performers, ranging in age from 8 to 24, have mastered the skills of playing diabolo with musical rhythm, ballet, gymnastics, jazz, and martial arts. Diabolos have been one of the most popular toys for children in China for over 4,000 years. Spinning, tossing, swinging, looping, and bouncing are the five basics in playing the diabolo. For better control of the rolling diabolo, a player needs to learn how to breathe along with the movement and how to concentrate on the flying diabolo.

Kung Fu Theatre: Tales from the Beijing Opera

7:30 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 6, 2007

Webster Hall Auditorium

Admission: free

A series of comic and dramatic scenes from China's most popular stories. Told in English and Chinese, this "kung fu" theatre is a combination of music, dialogue, dance, mime, and acrobatics. These scenes capture the magic and beauty of China's most renowned performing arts tradition.

Doing Business in China:

The New Entrepreneurs

10:00 a.m., Wednesday, Oct. 17, 2007

Cornell Auditorium in Plaster Hall

Admission: free

Breaking into a country of 1.3 billion potential customers without getting burned is full of daunting challenges. Area entrepreneurs and business leaders share their success stories and tips, including how to identify prospective Chinese buyers, how to understand local business practices and the Chinese consumer, how to build relationships and cultivate guanxi, and how to overcome cultural barriers.

Doing Business in China:

The New Entrepreneurs (continuation)

11:00 a.m., Wednesday, Oct. 17, 2007

Cornell Auditorium in Plaster Hall

Admission: free

The panel discussion that began at 10:00 a.m. continues, with the experts discussing China as a viable market, the necessity of formulating a good business plan, and other tricks of the trade.

From the Heartland of China to the Heartland of America

10:00 a.m. Monday, Oct. 22, 2007

Webster Hall Auditorium

Admission: free

Victoria Liu traveled to the United States in 1997 with nothing but a dream and two suitcases packed full of 22 years of her life in China. At MSSU, she met several people who became instrumental in her personal growth and career choice. During this presentation, she shares one of the most important lessons she learned from her time here: nothing is impossible if you set your mind to it. In her 10 years in America, Dr. Liu has discovered herself and learned how to keep her dreams alive.

One Life to Live: Born in China...

What is Your Future?

9:00 a.m., Monday, Oct. 29, 2007

Webster Hall Auditorium

Admission: free

A look at the lives of Chinese from birth through early 20s, the traditional life as well as the modern, changing lives of Chinese young people. A peek at their view of individuality, the community, and the country. And what about sex and crime and social work?

The Young and the Restless: Dating, Marriage, and Career Mobility in China

11:00 a.m., Monday, Oct. 29, 2007

Webster Hall Auditorium

Admission: free

A look at the lives of adult Chinese how they negotiate life and choose a school, career, and a mate amid issues of privacy, family, community, and upward mobility routes. And, where do politics, the party, the military, the Falon Gong, and religion fit in? Oh, and your in-laws? Is there a place for social work here?

The Golden Years and Grave Justice:

The Social Safety Net — Whole or Full of Holes?

1:00 p.m., Monday, Oct. 29, 2007

Webster Hall Auditorium

Admission: free

Where have all the children gone, especially girls, and who will take care of me? The cradle to grave society and social security in the PRC, from Communism to Socialist Economy with five-year plans. Mao is not just turning over in his glass grave, he's shrinking. How do Chinese citizens prepare for the future? In China, where is the future?

2007 China Conference

The Dragon Awake:

China and its Emergence as a Global Business Leader

Thursday-Friday, Nov. 1-2, 2007

Cornell Auditorium in Plaster Hall

Admission: \$100 conference registration fee; complimentary admission to individual events for MSSU students, faculty, and staff.

The Robert W. Plaster School of Business Administration at Missouri Southern State University is hosting an academic and business conference that focuses on the linkages between China's historical, social, and cultural past and its current business practices.

The Evolving Socio-Economic and Political Landscape of International Business in China

9:30 a.m., Thursday, Nov. 1, 2007

Cornell Auditorium in Plaster Hall

Admission: free

The keynote presentation of the "The Dragon Awake: China and its Emergence as a Global Business Leader" conference focuses on the economic, social, and political

changes affecting international business in China, a country in transition, moving rapidly through the development cycle and emerging as an economic superpower. However, with this economic transformation also comes strain on the political, economic, and legal infrastructure and changes in societal values. These changes have altered the human condition in China as well as the atmosphere for investors, consumers, entrepreneurs, and laborers. The presentation will include a contextual overview of these changes to increase understanding of opportunities and threats in the Chinese market.

Wu Man and Friends

7:00 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 1, 2007

Taylor Performing Arts Center

Admission: free

In a meeting of East and West, Chinese pipa virtuoso Wu Man joins forces with Appalachian folk guitarist Lee Knight and percussionist Robert Schulz to create a fascinating blend of two musical cultures and to revisit the music from her album, "Wu Man and Friends." Wu Man is an internationally renowned pipa virtuoso, cited by the *Los Angeles Times* as "the artist most responsible for bringing the pipa to the Western World." Born in Hangzhou, China, Wu Man studied at the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing where she became the first recipient of a master's degree in pipa. Wu Man was selected by Yo-Yo Ma as the winner of the City of Toronto Glenn Gould Protégé Prize in music and communication. She is also the first artist from China to have performed at the White House with the noted cellist with whom she now performs as part of the Silk Road Project. Her touring has taken her to the major music halls of the world including Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center.

The Dragon Sleeps:

The Smoking Opium Business in the 19th Century American West

9:00 a.m., Friday, Nov. 2, 2007

Cornell Auditorium in Plaster Hall

Admission: free

America's current "war on drugs" is not the nation's first. Though only a very small minority of Chinese immigrants in America were actually involved in the opium business, the spread of opium use in Angelo communities was deemed a threat to the nation's entrepreneurial spirit and to its growing importance as a world economic and military power.

Tigers & Rats & Snakes, Oh My! Chinese Zodiac Symbols — Fact or Fantasy?

11:00 a.m., Monday, Nov. 5, 2007

Webster Hall Auditorium

Admission: free

According to Chinese custom, every year has a corresponding "birthpet" the mouse, cattle, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, sheep, monkey, chicken, dog, pig. When a baby is born, special attention is paid to the mannerisms of that year's birthpet. Professor Feng Lei relates some interesting stories about the birthpet and its impact on modern Chinese society.

Composing Music Between Countries

1:00 p.m., Friday, Nov. 9, 2007

Webster Hall Auditorium

Admission: free

Dr. Zhou explains the concept behind his lecture: "Thinking about what we could do to share different cultures in our new society, I have been composing music seriously to achieve my goal of improving the understanding between peoples from various backgrounds. My conceptions have often come from ancient Chinese poetry. There are musical traits directly reminiscent of ancient China: sensitive melodies, expressive glissandi in various statements, and, in particular, a peculiarly Chinese undercurrent of tranquility and meditation. The cross-fertilization of color, material, and technique, and on a deeper level, cultural heritage, makes for challenging work."

Zhou Long is recognized internationally for creating a unique body of music that brings together the aesthetic concepts and musical elements of East and West. Deeply grounded in the spectrum of his Chinese heritage particularly its philosophical and spiritual ideals he is a pioneer in combining the idiomatic sounds and techniques of ancient Chinese musical traditions with contemporary Western ensembles and compositional forms. His creative vision has resulted in a new music that achieves an exciting and fertile common ground.

Sound of China

7:30 p.m., Friday, Nov. 9, 2007

Taylor Performing Arts Center

Admission: free

The Southern Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of Dr. Kexi Liu, will present an all-Chinese concert. The program includes the world premiere of a commissioned work by internationally known composer Zhou Long. On the program is also the popular Chinese piano concerto, *The Yellow River Piano Concerto*, performed by prize-winning pianist Langning Liu. In addition, the orchestra will perform Chinese music of different styles, traditional and modern.

Family Planning in Rural China

10:00 a.m., Friday, Nov. 16, 2007

Webster Hall Auditorium

Admission: free

In light of the crushing pressure China's enormous population exerts on limited natural resources, most scholars agree on the economic benefits (and even the economic imperative) of government controls on fertility in the world's most populous country. In this presentation Professor Michelson will explore a variety of unintended social and political costs and consequences of China's family planning policies, typically referred to as the "single-child policy." He will show that the enforcement of family planning

policies accounts for a sizable portion of the work of local government, has heightened negative attitudes toward local government, is responsible for a significant volume of conflict and contention, and has contributed to highly skewed gender ratios (the problem of "missing girls").

Sources of Conflict in Rural China

11:00 a.m., Friday, Nov. 16, 2007

Webster Hall Auditorium

Admission: free

Media reports abound of the growing volume and intensity of conflict in China. In recent years excessive taxation, "land grabs," and the enforcement of family planning policies have produced and aggravated conflict in the Chinese countryside. Although they are important sources of conflict, Professor Michelson will show that these reasons cannot completely explain why some areas of China are more conflict-ridden than others. Villagers in different parts of China have responded very differently to similar objective social and economic conditions. He will use the extraordinary case of southeast Henan Province to illustrate the importance of memories of past trauma. In particular, a series of traumatic events namely, the Great Leap Famine (1959-61), the Zhumadian flood (1975), and the HIV/AIDS epidemic (mid 1990s-present) have taught villagers in southeast Henan to distrust local government. Compared to villagers in other parts of China with even heavier tax burdens and even less favorable economic conditions, villagers here, owing to their memories of these large-scale disasters, have been exceptionally aggressive, litigious, and disobedient.

Appreciation Rarely Appears First:

A Testimonial from an MSSU Student Who Spent Two Years in China

On request: Call 417-625-9736 to schedule

There is little to give the impression of permanence and stability in China, possibly none more so than from the eyes of a visitor. Being caught up in just such a maelstrom of impermanence, one discovers an infinitely faster pace of life. It seems as though barely anything remains untouched for longer than the shelf-life of 2 percent milk. Yet such impermanence was not limited to inanimate objects, if not for such a simple reason as the myriad of people who lived in or used those objects. In contrast, small-town America often can be summed up by the words steady and even monotonous. In both of these two worlds, Michael Edwards says he hardly left a footnote, yet both carved deep impressions in his soul.

Michael Edwards, a senior international studies major, spent the past two years in China teaching English and studying at the Communication University of China in Beijing.

For more information, contact:

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Director, Institute of International Studies

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417-625-9736

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2. The Act only applies to IRAs. You must rollover other types of plans to an IRA before making the transfer.
3. The Act is only good for 2 years (2006 and 2007).
4. The Donor must be at least 70 and one-half years of age.
5. The transfer may count towards the Required Minimum Distribution.
6. There is a maximum transfer of \$100,000 per person per year.
7. The transfer should come directly from the plan administrator.
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 - a. Non-itemizers may use.
 - b. The donation is not subject to limitations or reductions imposed on other charitable contributions.
 - c. It will not cause an increase in taxation of Social Security benefits.

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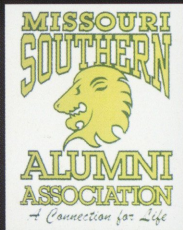
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